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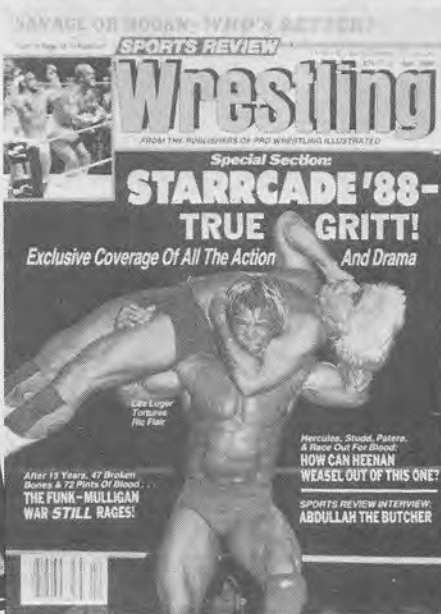
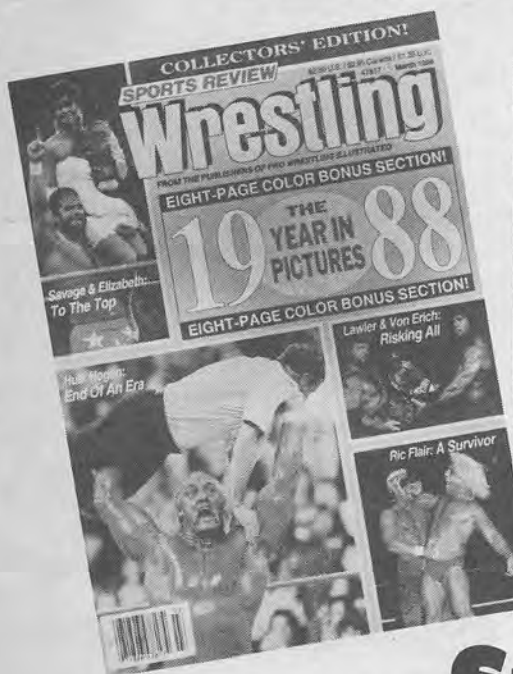
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NWA champion Ric Flair was pleased with our presentation of his personal photo album in the August 1989 issue. He was even a bit surprised, because he says the press often treats him unfairly.

PERSONAL THANKS

I'd just like to take the opportunity to thank the editors of *Sports Review Wrestling* for their tasteful presentation of my career photo album ("Exclusive Bonus Section: Ric Flair's Personal Photo Album," August 1989). At first I was a little concerned about how these photos might be used, considering that the press has often treated me unfairly, but I must say that I couldn't have done better myself.

Of course, now that I have added my sixth NWA World title, it only seems right that *Sports Review Wrestling* run a revised version of my photo album. That way, all the fans could have a complete record of the greatest all-around wrestler that ever lived.

RIC FLAIR
Charlotte, NC

TULLY & ARN: WWF SUCCESS

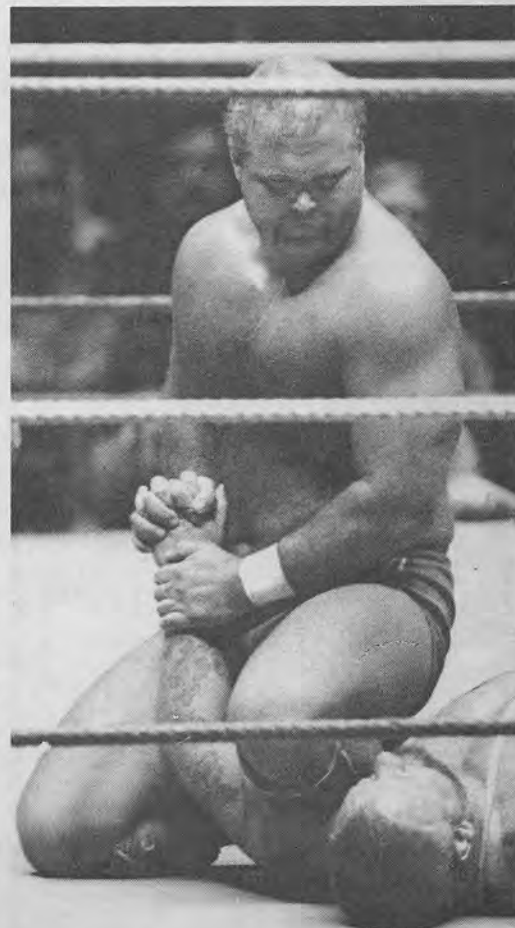
I would like to comment on the success Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson are finally experiencing in the World Wrestling Federation.

When they made the big decision to

join the WWF last year, they received nothing but sharp criticism, including an insulting story in your sister publication *Inside Wrestling*: "Tully And Arn Will Fail Under Bobby Heenan! A Special Analysis By J.J. Dillon." In the article, Dillon claimed that Blanchard and Anderson didn't have the smarts to make it without him and took credit for all their accomplishments in the NWA.

Well, J.J., you once again proved what an incompetent fool you really are. Today, Arn and Tully are the number-one tag team in the WWF and are receiving many title shots against those talentless bums, Demolition. They beat the champions on *Saturday Night's Main Event*, and Demolition had to resort to getting disqualified to save their belts. It is simply a matter of time before the title is theirs, *without* that bum Dillon's guidance.

The critics who said Tully and Arn would be lost in the circus-like atmosphere of the WWF have been proven wrong. You see, true talent and wres-



ting ability will always rise above musclehead morons and barnyard animal characters. It doesn't matter which federation they choose to compete in, the bottom line is that Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson are the greatest tag team of all time.

IAN P. BURNS
Gravenhurst, Ontario

OUT IN A "FLASH"

Why does everyone think Scott "Flash" Norton is so great? Okay, the guy is probably the strongest wrestler in the AWA, but so what? The weekend that I'm writing this letter is the same weekend that Norton teamed with Wahoo McDaniel against The Destruction Crew. In that match, Wahoo was severely injured and put out of wrestling. The question I have is: Where was the great Scott Norton when this was happening?

Arn Anderson wristlocks Luke Williams. Reader Ian P. Burns thinks Anderson and Tully Blanchard—The Brain Busters—are not only the best tag team in the WWF, they're the greatest team of all-time.



I'll tell you where he was. The "Flasher" was outside the ring doing nothing! After he was hit in the head with a hard hat that probably wouldn't even hurt my grandmother, he stayed outside and watched a man's career end.

Great job, Scott!

JOE NAGRI
Bayside, NY

A DOG'S-EYE VIEW

Regarding the story "Davey Boy In The Doghouse: This Could Be The End Of The British Bulldogs!", it seems to me that most people are over-reacting to this situation. Sure, Davey Boy and Dynamite are now feuding, but that doesn't mean their feud will last forever. After all, many great teams—including The Rock 'n' Roll Express—have had periods of friction, only to get right back together again. I think that's what we're seeing here.

Of course, the press, as usual, is blowing this up and making it sound like Davey Boy and Dynamite Kid will never get back together. That's ridiculous! Davey Boy and Dynamite are good friends who share a common bond. Right now they're having some problems, but eventually they'll realize that they want to be together. Not only that, they *need* to be together. That's how they're most successful!

It wouldn't surprise me in the least if, by the time you get this letter, the Bulldogs are back together. Really good friends are inseparable.

JENNY JOHNSON
N. Bellmore, NY

HE'S DIRTY RHODES

I'm sure I won't be the first person to say this, but the Dusty Rhodes we're seeing now in the WWF absolutely disgusts me. To me, Dusty always represented the blue-collar man, but now he's just a vulgar, fat slob. Some of the off-color remarks he's made on WWF television aren't even fit to be repeated in a family magazine, much less said on TV while a very young and impressionable audience watches.

I guess when you're old, out of



Dusty Rhodes' return to the WWF is being well-received by many fans, but not by reader Lisa Rutkowski. She once liked Dusty but now is insulted by his comments on television.

shape, and washed up, you have to resort to shock methods to get people's attention. But once Dusty starts getting tossed around the ring, he'll shut his mouth and treat his audience with a little more respect. I just can't believe the reaction he's getting from the fans. This is what they want to cheer?

Not I.

LISA RUTKOWSKI
Long Beach, CA

THE LONG & THE SHORT

I usually don't agree with Dave Rosenbaum's opinions, but for once I agree. The NWA was absolutely right to ban Teddy Long from refereeing ("Point/Counterpoint," August 1989). In my opinion, he should be banned from the NWA forever.

This guy has had too much of an impact on the title situations in the NWA. It's one thing for a referee to make a mistake; it's another for him to blatantly favor one team over another, especially in an important match. Long is lucky The Road War-

(Continued on page 44)

THE TATTLER

MEMPHIS, TN: Improbably, and incredibly because of Ronald Gossett's interference, World Class champion Jerry Lawler and archrival Kerry Von Erich are on the verge of reuniting. The two shook hands after running off Master of Pain, Mark Starr, Dutch Mantel, and Gossett, and might join forces for the battle against Gossett's goons.

It all started when Kerry accepted \$5,000 to have Gossett in his corner for a match against Lawler. Gossett, who claimed to have suffered a heart attack one week earlier in a six-man tag team elimination match, was wheeled to the ring on a hospital gurney and placed in Kerry's



KERRY VON ERICH

corner.

"I told him that if he interfered, I'd bust his face in half," Von Erich revealed later. "Wouldn't you know that he couldn't resist?"

Approximately 10 minutes into the match, Von Erich kicked out of a pin and catapulted Lawler into referee Jerry Calhoun. As Kerry tried to revive Calhoun, a groggy Lawler got to his feet. But Gossett jumped off the gurney, ran into the ring, and smashed Lawler with a small chain. Von Erich, who had finally revived Calhoun, turned around and covered Lawler for the pin.

Calhoun was ready to award the World Class belt to Von Erich when the fans cried out that Gossett interfered. "When I heard that, I realized that Gossett must have run into the ring while my back was turned," Kerry said. "When I confronted Gossett and asked him if he did, he started shaking like a leaf."

But Kerry didn't have a chance to punish Gossett. Master of Pain, Starr, and Mantel suddenly rushed out and attacked Von Erich and Lawler. Finally, however, Von Erich and Lawler composed themselves and ran Gossett's crew back to the dressing room.

"Then I looked at Lawler and he looked at me, so we just started going at it," Von Erich explained. "It was just natural. But then, at about the same time, we realized that we had helped each other. Sometimes

(Continued on page 62)

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STRAIGHT *talk* with

EDDIE ELLNER

Should I . . . or shouldn't I? If one responds to inanity, does one in fact appear inane? Should I? Shouldn't I?

The hell with it, I will.

Last month, in a space not far from this one, **Bill (Boy Toy) Apter**, using the few wits at his disposal, attempted to parody this column (and, by association, you loyal readers) with a mock-rendition of "Straight Talk" the way he decided it should be written.

My all-too-obvious comeback would be to return the favor and give a cheap cover of Bill's unfortunate column, "Locker Room Confidential." Perhaps if I didn't find Bill's writing so offensive and dull and unendingly vapid, boring, stupid, and tedious, I might give it a shot. Instead, to the horror of the editors who share Bill's feelings that this column should be "quick" and "snappy" like some children's breakfast cereal, I will objectively analyze a few of Bill's ruminations to see if his insights were more profound than my own. Who knows? Perhaps his way is the right way. So run, readers, retrieve last month's *Sports Review Wrestling* and follow the bouncing red pen.



DUSTY RHODES

Bill Apter's version of "Straight Talk" opened with Bill babbling about **Dusty Rhodes**, promising that "exciting times are ahead for WWF fans" now that the **Fat Splotch** is back in town. "But about that pizza delivery man bit . . ." Bill's initial thought ends—almost, one might say, before it began.

Well, Billy, what *about* the pizza delivery man bit? Doesn't the fact that Dusty Rhodes—the same Dusty Rhodes you've glorified and deified beyond reason and recognition—has sold his soul and integrity to the highest bidder deserve some of your expert critical interpretation? Why would

(according to you) a man of unsurpassed professionalism, a man who has always held his sport in a sacred light, suddenly appear on na-

tionwide television as a gas station attendant and a butcher? Does he need money? What is the answer? Do you know, Bill? Are you just too embarrassed (protective? frightened?) to tell us?

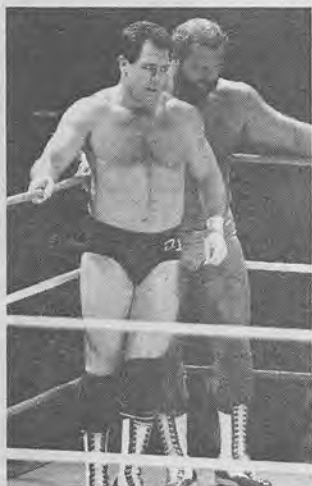
Next, in what passes for criticism of **Hulk Hogan's** film *No Holds Barred*, Bill writes, "If you want to see Hulk Hogan, try your local arena or turn on the TV. But to me, Hogan acting is as ridiculous as Mr. T trying to wrestle. Maybe more." *Maybe more.* Phew. Let me catch my breath. If that isn't quick and snappy, what is? The truth, Bill, at least how I'd write it, is there ain't a lick of difference between Hogan the wrestler and Hogan the



HULK HOGAN IN *NO HOLDS BARRED*

actor: Both are stiff and stuffy, both flex their artificially suntanned arms till you want to puke, and both will reap carloads of money from ring experiences, real and celluloid.

Next: "You just know that **Tully Blanchard** and **Arn Anderson** can't wait to get their hands on Dusty," pens a quicker, snappier Bill. We wait, expectantly, for Bill to explore the ramifications of this potential feud. Can an NWA battle endure in the WWF? Would **Vince McMahon**, who erases wrestlers'



TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON

past careers with impunity the moment they sign a WWF contract, make an exception, given the box-office megapotential the feud offers? Is there a clause written into Dusty's contract that guarantees him a crack at Blanchard and Anderson? Questions fans are dying to have answered, yet none cutting enough to provoke Bill to confront.

Better quick and snappy than thoughtful and interesting.

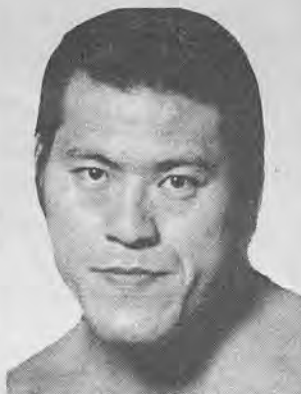
Next and last: Bill really says at one point in his brilliant burlesque, "I wish I was in Japan last month for those Soviet-Japanese-American matches. That was the place to be." Incisive. Cutting. Probing. There he is, editors, *your* Bill Apter. Please remember to place him in the receptacle marked "rubbish."

And be quick and snappy about it.

"Straight Talk," the way it oughta be:

Japanese wrestling legend **Antonio Inoki's** decision to jump from the wrestling ring into the political ring further marks the wide gulf between American and Japanese perspective. Inoki, 46, declared his candidacy for the House of Counselors in an interview televised throughout Japan last June 15.

Imagining, for in-



ANTONIO INOKI

stance, **Ultimate Warrior** running for State Assembly leads us, inexorably, to this month's **Ratings Of Wrestlers And The Political Offices They Are Most Likely To Hold.**

Press Secretary to the President: **Jim Cornette**. Secretary of Defense: **Nikita Koloff**. Secretary of Agriculture: **Hillbilly Jim**. Secretary of Style: **Ric Flair**. Secretary of Health, Education, & Welfare: **Abdullah the Butcher**. U.N. Secretary General: **Col. DeBeers**.



LEX LUGER VS. RICK STEAMBOAT

I'm not deaf to the fact that in many arenas **Lex Luger** is hearing more cheers than **Rick Steamboat**. I *am* blind to the reason why.

They Held A Feud And No One Decided To Show Up Award goes to the **Dustin Rhodes-Kendall Windham** embroglio cooling down Florida arenas. Or, as one arena concession worker put it, "When those two enter the ring, business sure picks up out here."

I bet it's standing room only in the bathrooms, too.

Is historical novelist **Vince McMahon** serious when he calls former WWF tag team champion **Barry Windham** an "unproven commodity"? He may be a



BARRY WINDHAM

pandering twit, but Windham can certainly dominate the current WWF talent.

Till next month.

[Editor's note: Sometimes quick, sometimes snappy, yet often offensive and controversial, the views of **Eddie Ellner** are NOT to be confused with those of the other editors or of the magazine as a whole.] □

LOCKER ROOM

Confidential

with Bill Apter

THE NIGHT BEFORE Ric Flair made the announcement that revealed whether he would retire or return to the ring, the six-time NWA World champion picked up the *TV Guide* that was sitting on top of his coffee table, threw it against the wall, and shouted, "I've had it up to here with *Leave It To Beaver* reruns!"

At that point, I was pretty certain what Flair's decision had been. It became clear to me that he'd invited me to his home in Charlotte, North Carolina, so I could hear the news before anyone else. I was about to pick up the phone and calling Stu Saks in New York, but Flair cut in.

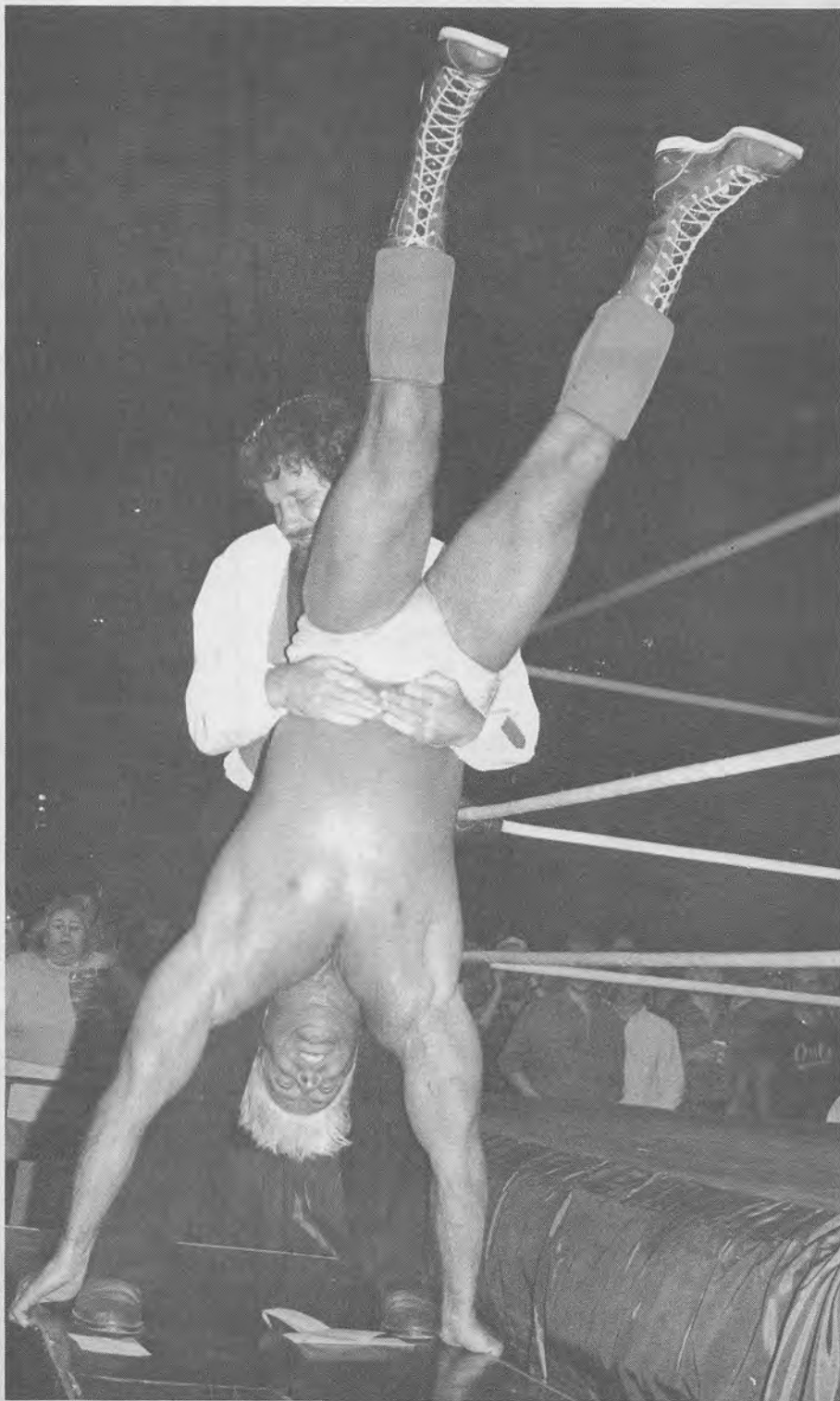
"Excuse me, Bill," Flair said, "but I have a phone call to make."

The call, as it turned out, was to the NWA's executive offices at Turner Broadcasting System in Atlanta. "This is Ric," Flair said into the phone. "Give me Jim Herd immediately." When the NWA executive vice president finally came to the phone, Flair said, "Jim, I want Funk. Get him for me and I'm back."

The following day in Atlanta, I ran into Herd at Flair's press conference and took him aside for a moment. "Jim," I asked, "was there any way you were going to refuse his request?"

He appeared startled at first, but quickly caught on to what I meant. Then, to my surprise, Herd revealed that Flair's request hadn't been granted at all. "I told him we'd give it our best shot, but that we'd first have to look through the NWA bylaws," Herd said. "Under

(Continued on page 60)

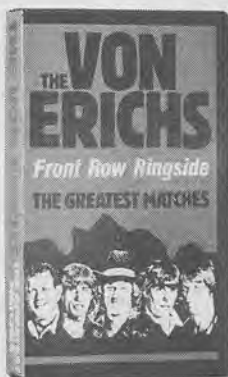


Terry Funk piledrives Ric Flair on a ringside table following Flair's NWA World title victory over Rick Steamboat in May. The vicious attack put Flair out of action for over two months.



A VON ERICH EXTRAVAGANZA!

The Von Erich family has long been known as "The First Family Of Professional Wrestling." Now, a deluxe-quality videotape and collectors' edition hardcover book bring all the excitement, drama, tragedy, and triumph of the Von Erichs into your home!



THE VON ERICHS: FRONT ROW RINGSIDE is an up-close and personal look at the Von Erich legend culled from the extensive video library of World Class Championship Wrestling and featuring at-home interviews with Kerry, Kevin, Mike, and Fritz. This program will be a valuable addition to your videotape collection. (Sorry, VHS format only is available in this special offer.) Included in this sensational 70-minute tape:

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- The complete March 4, 1983, Kevin Von Erich-Terry Gordy match in which Kevin won the World Class American belt!
- Highlights of David Von Erich battling Jim Garvin, Kamala, and Harley Race.
- The entire May 6, 1984, bout in which Kerry Von Erich captured the NWA World title from Ric Flair at Texas Stadium in front of 43,518 fans.
- Highlights of Mike Von Erich's November 24, 1983, debut match against Gen. Skandor Akbar, and a battle against John Tatum.
- Rare footage of Chris Von Erich; Fritz vs. Joe Blanchard; David spanking Sunshine; six-man action featuring Mike, Lance, & Kevin, and David, Kevin, and Kerry; and Mike's hospitalization from toxic shock syndrome.

THE VON ERICHS: A FAMILY ALBUM is a magnificent history of the entire Von Erich family in words and pictures. Subtitled "Tragedies And Triumphs Of America's First Family Of Wrestling," the book chronicles Fritz, Doris, Kevin, David, Kerry, Mike, and Chris—plus rare photos of Jack—in over 100 black-and-white photographs and 32 pages of dazzling color photography. Many of these photos are from the Von Erich personal family scrapbooks (including many baby photos and school portraits) and have never been published anywhere—until now! This beautifully designed hardcover volume measures 8 1/2 x 11 and is 128 pages in length. You'll be proud to add this to your personal library.



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TOP WRESTLE

YOUR QUESTION

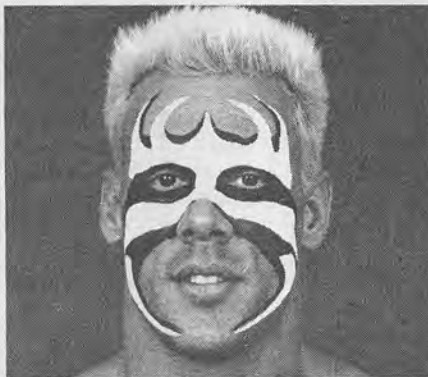
Do you have a question you want answered by 10 of wrestling's top stars? Each month, *Sports Review Wrestling* will publish a fan's "Question of the Month," which will be answered by the sport's top superstars. If you have a question you would like to see answered, send it to:

ASK THE STARS
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THE "QUESTION OF THE MONTH" IS:

**"Is there anything
you've done in your
wrestling career
that you've lived to
regret?"**

Submitted by:
Ed Hughes
Thurston, WA



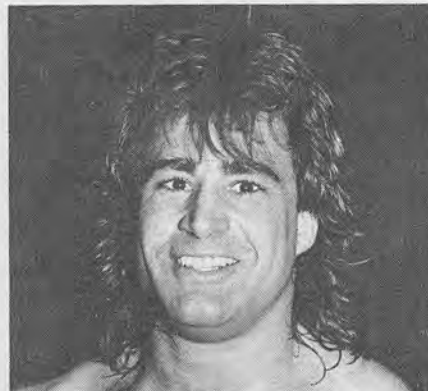
STING

"Yeah, I guess there are a few things I'm not that proud of. The biggest thing that sticks out in my mind is the way I acted when I was a member of The Blade Runners. I was getting some bad advice, and I was told the only way to make it in this business was to cripple everyone I came in contact with. Obviously, I changed my ways a couple of years ago, and I feel better about myself now."



MICHAEL HAYES

"It's gotta be the war between The Freebirds. For more than a year, I didn't hear a word from either Terry Gordy or Buddy Roberts. A few months ago, I got on the phone, and I instantly patched up our differences. It's something I should've done a whole lot sooner, 'cause The Freebirds are the greatest team ever, especially now that we got the legendary Jim Garvin on our side."



TOM ZENK

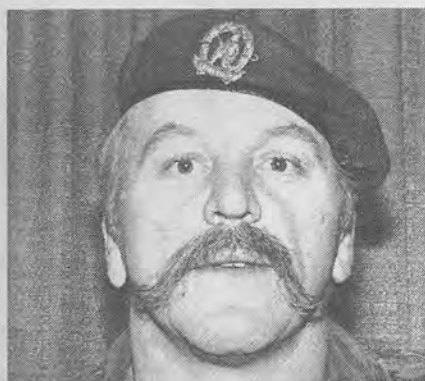
"I regret that my team with Rick Martel, The Can-Am Connection, ended so quickly. It looked like we were about to win the WWF World tag team title back in '87, but because of personal problems I was having with Rick I just couldn't stick around. I can only look back and wonder what would have happened if we had stayed together. On the other hand, it could have been disastrous, too."



ERIC EMBRY

"How could I have not realized how great the fans of World Class are? They're the people that helped me get my suspension lifted, and without them I don't know where I'd be. And to think, those are the same people that I used to thumb my nose at when they'd try to get an autograph. Now, I know those fine folks are all my friends. How could I have been so blind for so long?"

RS ANSWER OF THE MONTH



COL. DeBEERS

"Regrets? As far as conduct in the ring goes, I can honestly say that there isn't one thing I have done that I am not proud of. But if there is one mistake I have made in my life, it was leaving the majestic shores of South Africa to come to this god-forsaken land. I regret ever having to put my hands on these filthy American wrestlers. It is something I'm not very fond of at all."



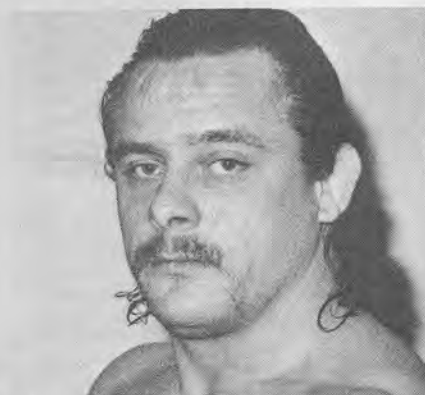
DICK MURDOCH

"Yeah, there's something I did that still makes me wake up in a cold sweat. I remember one night in the early '70s, back when me and Dusty Rhodes were known as The Texas Outlaws. We put a whuppin' on a couple young preliminary wrestlers that was so bad that neither of 'em could ever compete again. There's really no place for that in this great sport, and I was responsible. It's a shame."



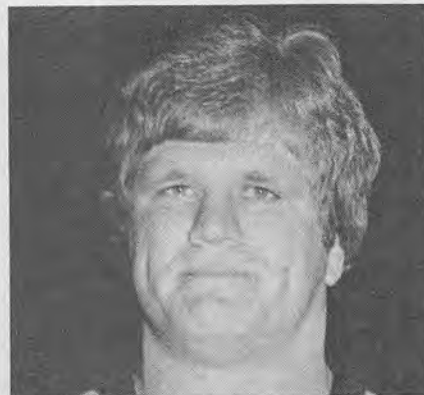
JERRY LAWLER

"I listened to my first manager, Sam Bass, for too long. Sam always told me that the fans of Memphis weren't worth anything, and that they were only good for paying admission to the matches. Well, Sam was dead wrong. If it wasn't for Memphis fans, I would've never become the AWA World champion. I never would have had half the confidence I do now. Those people mean more to me than anything."



DYNAMITE KID

"I've got a regret, and it's a bloody big one. I wasted almost five years of my life teaming with no-good Davey Boy Smith. Well, now I say good riddance to bad rubbish. I carried that guy to the WWF World and Stampede International championships, but it was him who always tried to take all the credit. Now, I'm wrestling alone, and now I know it's the way I should've been all along."



BRAD RHEINGANS

"There is one match I've always wanted to take back, which was against Boris Zukhov back in 1986. I was having quite a feud with that Russian, and I started to use tactics against him that were quite removed from my collegiate training. I look at tapes of that bout, and I just sit there and cringe. How could I have been so brutal? I'm still amazed that I could sink quite that low."



RICK MORTON

"Over the past few months, there's been some confusion over whether or not I'm still committed to my fans, and that's something I deeply regret. So I'd like to clear up the matter right here and now. Just remember, whether you see me teaming with my buddy Robert Gibson or with my cousin Todd, you gotta know that I love the fans as much as ever. That's something that'll never change."

The Inquiring Reporter

No one knows wrestling better than the fans.

Because of this, we're now giving these experts a forum for their views and opinions. Each month, we'll ask a controversial question and have the fans answer—no matter what those answers might be!

THE QUESTION:

"What's your opinion of Ronnie Garvin as a referee?"

THE ANSWERS:

David Van Horn, Cleveland: "I can't believe that a former NWA World champion like Ronnie Garvin would abandon his outstanding career just to officiate. I realize that Garvin was pinned in a retirement match by Greg Valentine, but he should have appealed the decision, or perhaps moved on to another wrestling organization. After all, before he came to the WWF last fall, Garvin simultaneously held the AWA TV title and the WWC Universal title. Now, he hasn't got the opportunity to go after *any* championships. He's still one of the most talented wrestlers I've ever seen, so his new role just doesn't make any sense to me at all."

Bonnie Bayne, Boston: "I think that a referee like Garvin is just what the WWF has needed for a long time. How many times in the past few years have we seen incompetent or biased referees like Gilberto Roman and Danny Davis give lousy decisions to rule-breakers because they couldn't control what was going on in the ring—or didn't want to? Now, with a tough but fair man like Garvin in there, men like



Ronnie Garvin applies a front chancery on Ric Flair in a 1987 NWA World title match. It is because Garvin is such an excellent wrestler that some people believe he is wasting his time as a referee.

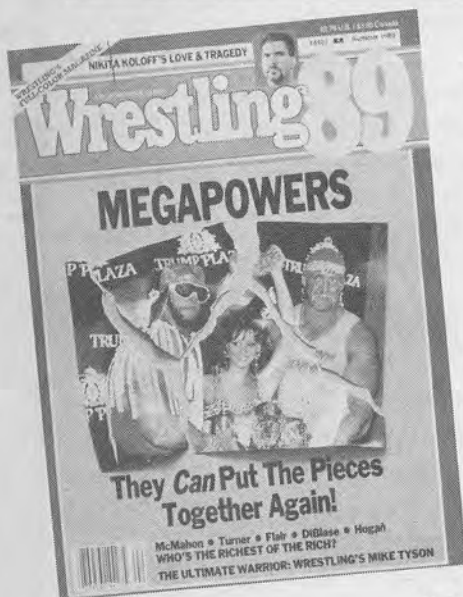
Greg Valentine and Bad News Brown had better not break the rules. Now, *before* they try to cripple somebody, they'll know there's a referee who can dish out everything a full-fledged wres-

tlar can. I hope they let Garvin start to officiate title matches, because that way all the fans will know the final decision will be a just and fair one."

(Continued on page 52)

GO FIRST CLASS!

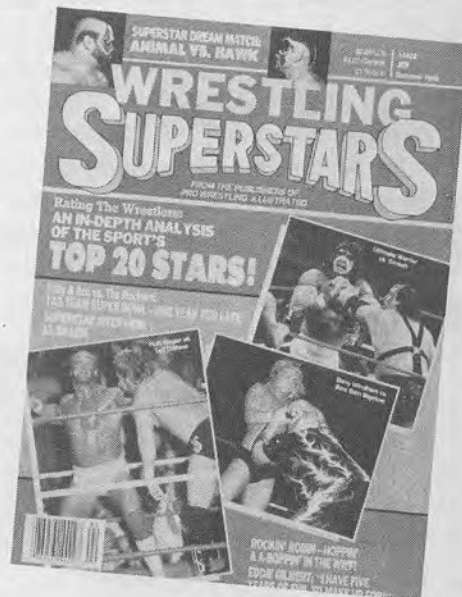
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SCRAPBOOK

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

1969

A QUIRK OF scheduling forced NWA World champion Dory Funk Jr. to defend his title against ex-champ Gene Kiniski in four different cities in the same week. Funk managed to hold on to his title in what he called "the toughest week of my career" ... Jack Dillinger, one member of the tag team The Chain Gang, used a chain to knock one of Dick the Bruiser's front teeth loose during

a tag team match ... Paul DeMarco defeated The Professional to win the Georgia state championship ... The wrestling community mourned the death of "Iron" Mike DiBiase, who died after a match in Texas ... Pepper Gomez and Fritz Von Erich engaged in a "Battle of the Claws" in Texas. Ironically, the claw was not the deciding factor in the contest. Gomez was knocked unconscious when he missed a flying tackle and flew head-first into the ringpost, after which Von Erich covered him for the victory ... The loser of a Johnny Weaver-

Louie Tillet match in Austin, Texas, was to be tarred and feathered. Weaver won the match, but was attacked from behind afterward by Tillet and received the treatment. Tillet was also tarred and feathered, though, when Nick Kozak, referee Marvin Jones, and promoter Leo Garibaldi ganged up on the Frenchman ... Ernie Ladd, on leave from the Kansas City Chiefs, pinned Baron Scicluna at Madison Square Garden. In the main event of that wrestling card, Bruno Sammartino defended his WWF title against Waldo Von Erich.

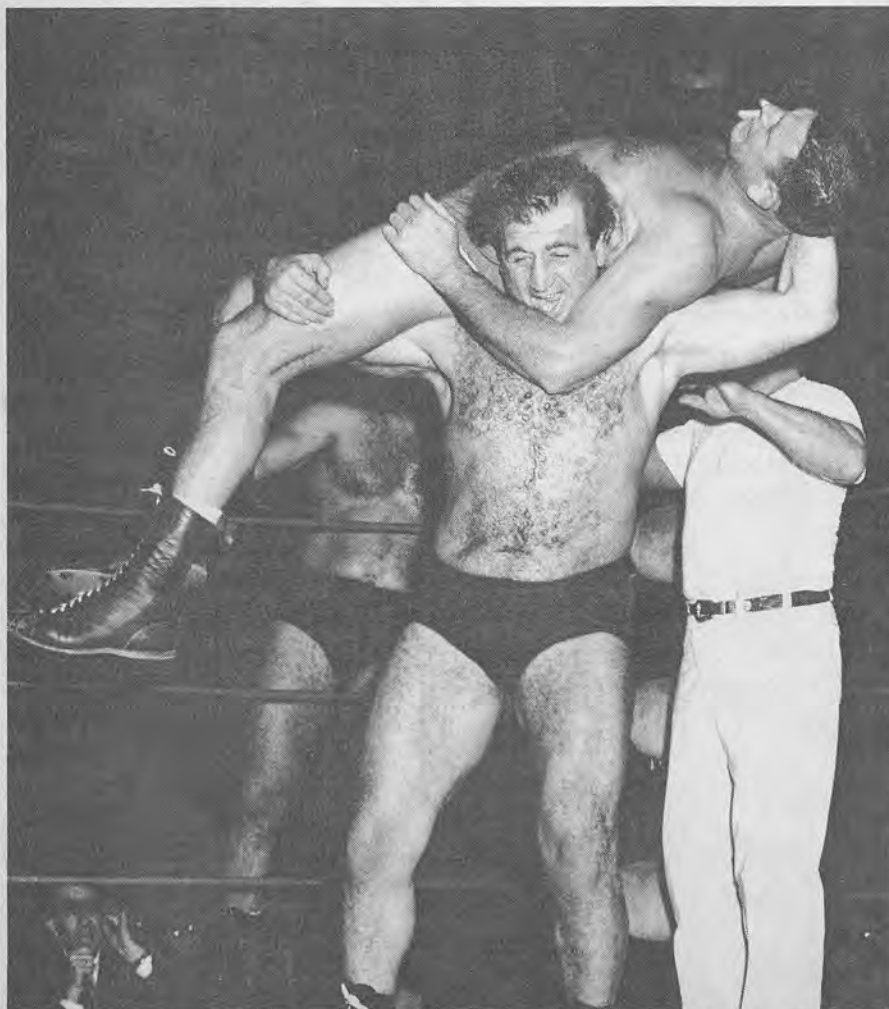
NWA RATINGS: 1—Dory Funk Jr.; 2—Gene Kiniski; 3—Fritz Von Erich; 4—Mil Mascaras; 5—Eddie Graham; 6—Cowboy Bob Ellis; 7—The Sheik; 8—Johnny Valentine; 9—Ernie Ladd; 10—Bob Geigel.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Verne Gagne; 2—Harley Race; 3—Crusher; 4—Bruiser; 5—Bill Watts; 6—Blackjack Lanza; 7—Mighty Igor; 8—Mad Dog Vachon; 9—Reg Parks; 10—Doug Gilbert.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Bruno Sammartino; 2—Killer Kowalski; 3—Gorilla Monsoon; 4—Prof. Toru Tanaka; 5—Edouard Carpentier; 6—Miguel Perez; 7—George Steele; 8—Bull Ramos; 9—Spiros Arion; 10—Victor Rivera.

TAG TEAMS: 1—Bruiser & Crusher; 2—Pepper Gomez & Pedro Morales; 3—Prof. Toru Tanaka & Mitsu Arakawa; 4—George Becker & Johnny Weaver; 5—Kenji Shibuya & Haru Sasaki; 6—Ole & Gene Anderson; 7—The Medics; 8—The Assassins; 9—Stan & Paul Vachon; 10—George & Sandy Scott.

(Continued on page 54)



"Iron" Mike DiBiase, father of Ted DiBiase, lifts Sonny Myers into a backbreaker. Mike died in 1969 after a match in Texas.

THE VIDEOTAPE EVENT OF THE YEAR!



Slant-Eyed Slaughter

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

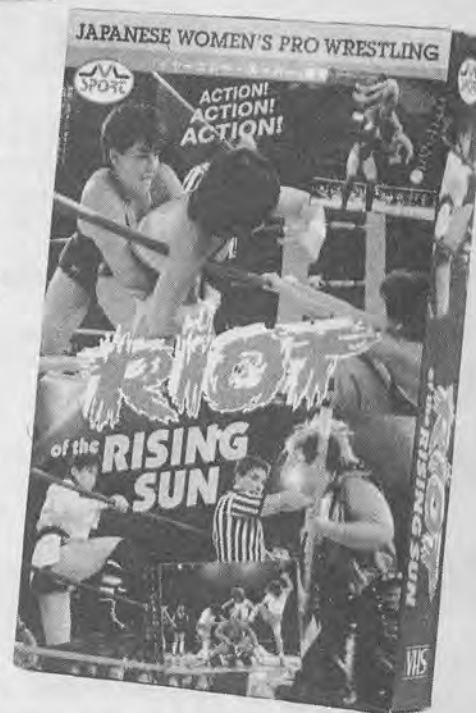
- Wendi Richter & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Okumura
- Nancy Kumi vs. Lucy Kayama
- Monster Ripper & "Devil" Masami vs. Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori & Mimi Hagiwara
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Tarantula
- "Crush Girl" Lioness Asuka vs. "Crush Girl" Chigusa Nagayo

OF THE YEAR!

You've heard about them . . . you've read about them . . . now you can see them for yourself! Japanese women wrestlers are among the most agile, athletic, acrobatic—and vicious—competitors in the entire mat world. Now, two sensational videotapes bring the dynamic action of Japanese women's wrestling into your own home!

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Jaguar Yokota, The Crush Girls, Devil Masami, The Jumping Bomb Angels, Dump Matsumoto—these are the legends of Japanese women's wrestling. They're all here, and more—including American superstar Wendi Richter. These matches, direct from Japanese television, include the kind of action that, until now, only satellite dish owners or Japanese fans could enjoy. These tapes are certain to become valued collectors' items. They include *complete* matches, not match excerpts!



Riot Of The Rising Sun

(running time: approximately 70 minutes)

- Yukari Omori & Ayumi "Jumbo" Hori vs. Noriyo Tateno & Itysuki Yamasaki—"The Jumping Bomb Angels"
- Masked You & Kaoru "Dump" Matsumoto vs. Lioness Asuka & Chigusa Nagayo—"The Crush Girls"
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. Las Galactia
- "Jaguar" Rimi Yokota vs. "Devil" Masami

Special Magazine Offer:

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SPECIAL NOTE: These tapes, distributed by Powersports Video in association with American Video, are being sold exclusively for a limited time only in the United States by T.V. Sports. Both tapes include English play-by-play commentary recorded alongside the original Japanese commentary and crowd noise. While the English commentary is poor, the action level and match quality of these bouts more than makes up for it. We're convinced you'll be *completely* satisfied by these programs.

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BILLY JACK HAYNES

IT HAS BECOME a relatively common occurrence in sports: A professional athlete announces his retirement, only to return to action soon thereafter either because he misses the competition or because he needs the money. Some examples include boxing's Sugar Ray Leonard and George Foreman, hockey's Guy Lafleur, and baseball's Tommy John.

On June 3, Billy Jack Haynes retired, then returned. But Haynes came back not because of a lust for competition or a lack of money. His motivation was far greater. Family honor.

Among those in attendance when Haynes announced his retirement at the Portland Sports Arena in Oregon were his brother, his niece, and his father, who is blind and confined to a wheelchair. Haynes has never been ashamed to express his love for his father. You may recall that Haynes was once known simply as Billy Jack, but began using his family name several years ago to honor his dad.

The retirement ceremony was moving. Haynes gave his boots to one fan and his ring robe to another. Haynes was in the midst of a speech when The Grappler, Al Madril, C.W. Bergstrom, and Joey Jackson began taunting him and his family. In a reprehensible barb aimed at Haynes' father, they began singing "Three Blind Mice."

It was such a disgusting insult that Haynes could not control himself. He attacked The Grappler, and later announced that he'd wrestle him at the next week's card. The retirement was over before it had even begun.

"I couldn't believe Grappler and his buddies would stoop so low," Haynes recalled. "When they started singing, something inside me just snapped. I couldn't hold myself back. They ruined a very special day for me. They had no damned right to drag my family into this! If they wanted *me*, fine, but they should've left my dad out of it. Now they're gonna pay!"

Fans packed the arena for Haynes' return, but at first they were not pleased with what they saw. The Grappler dominated the match, and it began to appear as though Haynes should have stayed retired. Perhaps, some thought, he had let his emotions dictate his actions.

But Haynes' old fire soon returned. When Grappler was caught in the ropes, Haynes wouldn't let referee Sandy Barr unhook him, twice tossing Barr out of the ring. "I knew I was risking disqualification," Haynes later said, "but I wanted to get my hands on Grappler so bad that it would have been worth it."

The match then took a bizarre twist. Scotty the Body came to ringside and left a package in one corner. Grappler was able to tie up Haynes and retrieve the package.

A ringside photographer also tried to get the package, but Grappler slapped her and pushed her to the ground.

Some fans were so incensed that they rushed toward the ring to help Haynes. "Beetlejuice" Art Barr ran in to help, but Grappler sprayed him on the back with a mysterious green substance. As Beetlejuice writhed in pain on the canvas, Steve Doll and Scott Peterson finally got to the ring to aid their friends and run The Grappler off.

Grappler earned a disqualification, but Haynes wasn't satisfied. He told the crowd he had hoped to force a submission by using his famous full-nelson.

"He took the coward's way out," Haynes asserted. "He knew I was gonna beat him, and he was afraid of getting pinned or feeling the crunch of my full-nelson. It's typical of him to turn tail and run when the heat is on. Him and his cronies are gonna lose a lot of sleep now that I'm back in the ring."

Their next encounter was a strap match two weeks later, but again Haynes didn't exact the fullest measure of revenge. Haynes had Grappler in a full-nelson, but Jackson interfered. Because Haynes was distracted, Grappler was able to cut the strap and free himself. But that didn't stop Haynes from putting Jackson out cold with the full-nelson.

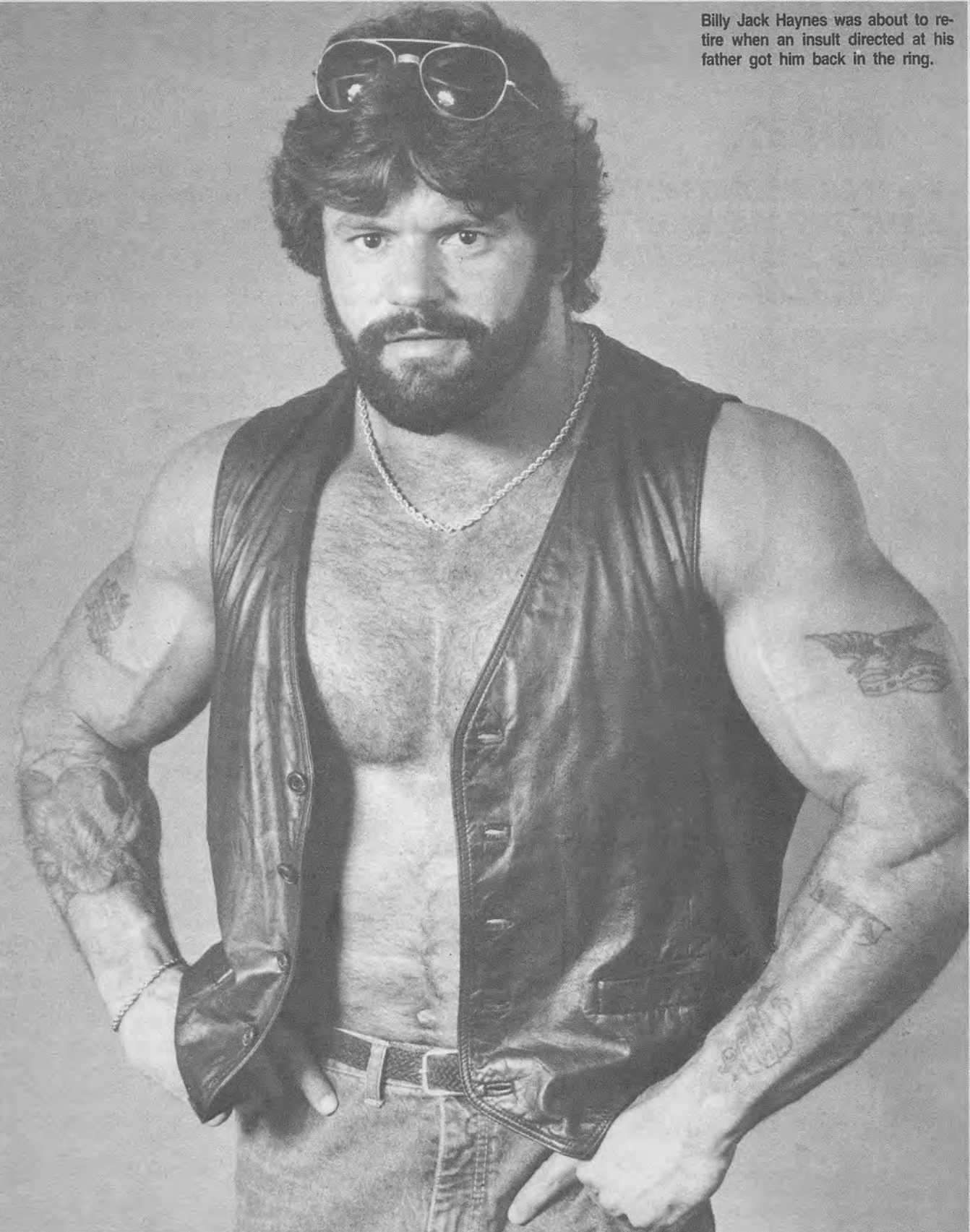
The third Haynes-Grappler confrontation was a stretcher match. Again, Haynes won under unusual circumstances. After a grueling battle, both men were carried from the ring on stretchers. Then the wrestlers carrying Haynes dropped him on the way back to the dressing room. Billy Jack was awarded the "victory" because Grappler stayed on the stretcher all the way to the locker room.

"To tell you the truth, I don't like the way these matches have been going," Haynes said. "I want a clean victory over Grappler. I don't want anybody to think I can't take this guy."

For stepping back into the ring to avenge the insults heaped upon his father, Haynes justly deserves "Wrestler of the Month" honors. But once he finishes dealing with Grappler and his cohorts, will Haynes go back to retirement?

"Right now I'm playing it by ear," Haynes said. "Grappler and the others aren't gonna go away just because they lost a couple of matches. They're tough men. Stupid, but tough. They have this thing against me, probably because I've been such a big star in this sport and they haven't won many titles. They're looking to make a name for themselves at my expense. They wanna be able to say they forced my retirement. There's no way I'm gonna let them have that satisfaction!" □

Billy Jack Haynes was about to retire when an insult directed at his father got him back in the ring.



POINT/COUNTERPOINT

POINT:

THE NWA WAS WRONG NOT TO IMPLEMENT THE 30-DAY TITLE-DEFENSE RULE CONCERNING RIC FLAIR



Ric Flair has been a great NWA World champion, writes Bob Smith, but if he was unable to defend the title within 30 days of regaining it, he should have been stripped of the belt, regardless of the injuries he suffered at the hands of Terry Funk.

By Bob Smith

BY NOW, THE aftermath of Ric Flair's sixth NWA World title victory is well-known by most wrestling fans. After Flair's stunning victory over Rick Steamboat on May 7 in Nashville, Terry Funk attacked the "Nature Boy," piledriving him on a wooden table and slamming him in the head with a metal chair. Flair suffered severe neck and back injuries as a result of Funk's sadistic actions.

Because of the severity of Flair's condition, the NWA allowed him to miss a whopping 79 days of action (a July 23 defense against Funk in Baltimore was slated to be his return bout), ignoring the 30-day mandatory title defense rule. Flair was brilliant in regaining the title from Steamboat, so I'm not arguing that he is not a worthy champion. But for a major organization like the NWA to go almost three months without a defending champion is simply wrong.

For much of the time Flair was on the sidelines, the NWA presented the annual Great American Bash tour. But fans were deprived of seeing World championship matches as part of these gala events. Attendance was hurt in many cities this year, and I believe interest was down because fans knew the World title wasn't going to be on the line.

Another 30-day allowance was made only two years ago for reasons that weren't quite as clear as Flair's injury. The NWA allowed Ron Garvin to miss more than 30 days of action after he defeated Flair for the title on September 25, 1987, in Detroit. The next time Garvin faced Flair wasn't until November 26 of that year. That time, there wasn't even an injury involved. The federation simply allowed Garvin to avoid defending his title!

So now there are two situations involving a rule that's highly publicized, but rarely enforced. And if they aren't going to enforce the 30-day rule, they might as well scrap it. By ignoring it, all they're doing is confusing the fans.

Bob Smith is assistant editor of this magazine.

There are two sides to every story, and nowhere is that more true than in professional wrestling. Each month, two of the world's most respected mat journalists will debate an important issue concerning the sport, facing off for an exchange of ideas, leaving the final decision up to *you*!

COUNTERPOINT:

THE NWA WAS RIGHT NOT TO IMPLEMENT THE 30-DAY TITLE-DEFENSE RULE CONCERNING RIC FLAIR

By Bill Apter

IT IS CLEARLY written in the NWA's "Official Rules Of Professional Wrestling," in black and white for everyone to see. In subsection 5-D of "Section III: Championships," it reads as follows:


Championships shall be defended at least once every 30 days unless the NWA authorizes an exception for good cause.

What better cause could there be than being blindsided and severely injured? When Terry Funk viciously attacked Ric Flair after Flair's World title victory on May 7 in Nashville, it gave the NWA every reason to allow Flair as much time as he needed to recover. After all, Funk was appointed by the NWA to serve as a judge for the Steamboat-Flair title match. And, since Funk was serving as an NWA official, it was up to the NWA to make good for the damage he created.

Plus, the 30-day mandatory title defense rule must be looked upon in the light in which it is intended. The rule was created to prevent reigning champions from hiding behind their championships, and it forces them to defend at least once a month against the man ranked as the number-one contender. In recent years, most NWA champions have defended their belts more than once a *week*. The rule has only been strictly enforced once, and that was way back in 1938, when Steve "Crusher" Casey was stripped of the title for leaving the country for long stretches and not defending the World belt on a regular basis.

The most important thing to remember is that it was not Flair's fault he missed more than two months of action. Why should he have been penalized for something over which he had no control? If the NWA is guilty of anything in this circumstance, it was for not suspending Funk for life after one of the most horribly violent incidents in the sport's history.

Bill Apter is senior editor of this magazine.



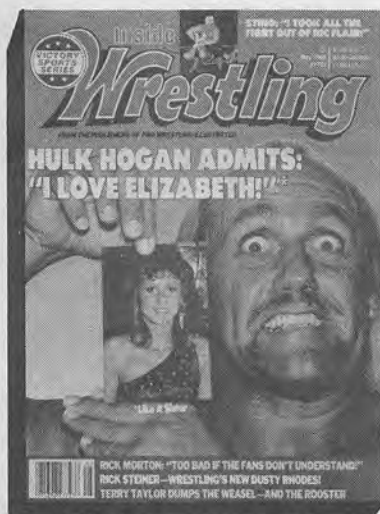
Funk attacks Flair just moments after Flair regained the NWA title. Bill Apter agrees with the NWA's decision to waive the 30-day rule, partly because Funk was an official judge, and, as such, the NWA should be held responsible for his actions.

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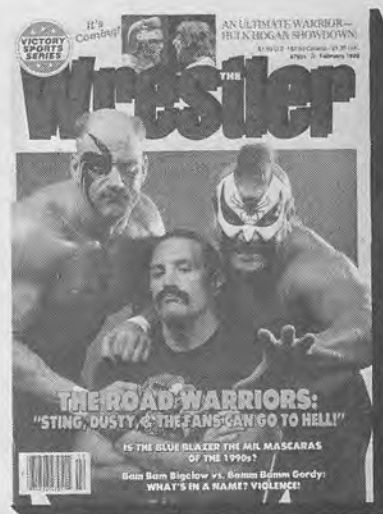
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EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS!

THE GREAT AMERICAN BASH TOUR!!!



All The Action And Drama

QUESTION: WHAT DO you call a wrestling fan who can't get enough of the Great American Bash?

ANSWER: A Bashoholic! Only in this case, the disease isn't fatal or even

dangerous. It's simply a matter of mat mania! What fan *isn't* drawn in by the action and excitement that surrounds the NWA's annual summer hoedown, a multi-event extravaganza that has the whole country hopping!

Yes, the Bash has certainly become a great American tradition. It's an im-

portant landmark on the wrestling calendar as the sport's top stars battle for a permanent place in the history books, a place that has been occupied in the past by Ric Flair, Dusty Rhodes, Lex Luger, Nikita Koloff, The Road Warriors, and so many others!

(Continued on page 48)

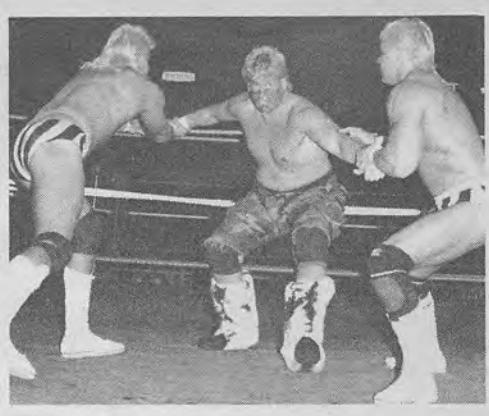
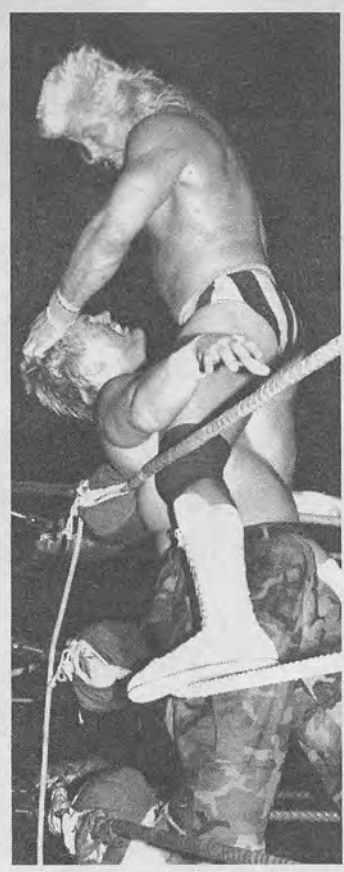


Up and down I-95, across the land, from arena to arena, the Great American Bash set summer on fire with the greatest wrestlers and the most exciting matches. *Sports Review Wrestling* was there to bring you the bell-to-bell action of this wrestling tradition

Photos by Bill Apter & Bob Smith

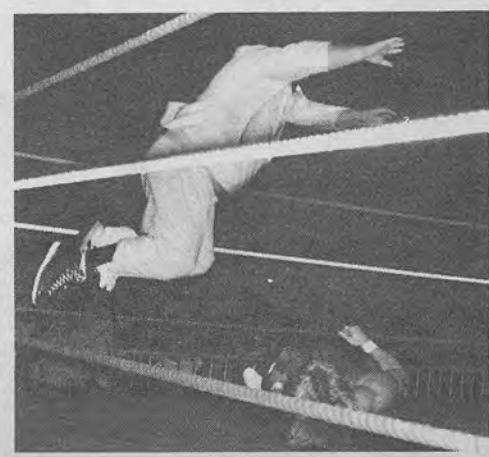
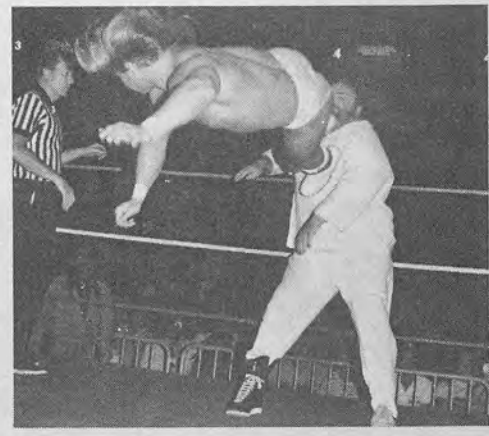
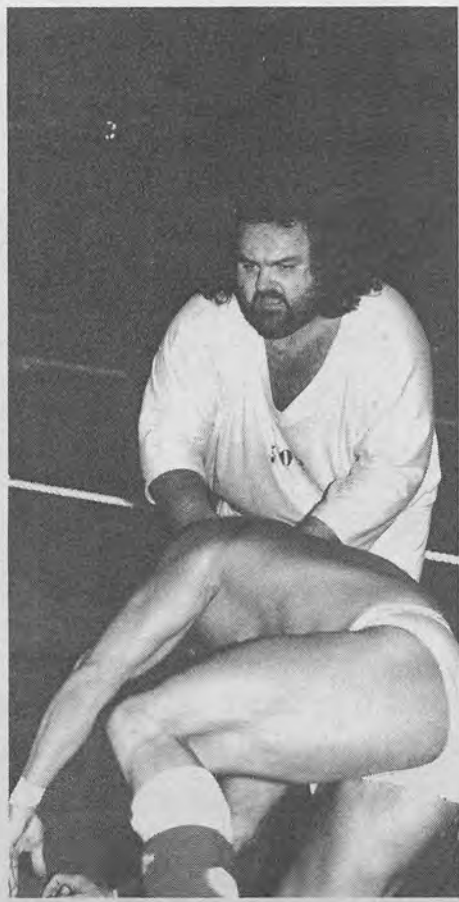


THE DYNAMIC DUDES VS. THE NEW ZEALAND MILITIA



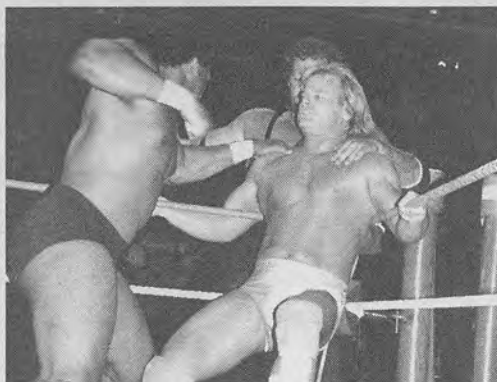
Jack Victory gets leverage from Rip Morgan as he armlocks Shane Douglas (above). Johnny Ace attacks Victory (right). The Dudes whip Victory (far right top). Douglas dropkicks Victory (far right bottom). The Dudes won this encounter.

NORMAN THE LUNATIC VS. STEVE CASEY



Teddy Long tries to exercise some control over Norman (above). Norman pulls Casey off the mat for more punishment (right). Casey gains a momentary advantage with a dropkick (far right top). Norman drops his massive girth onto Casey (far right bottom) and scores the pin.

THE MIDNIGHT EXPRESS VS. RON SIMMONS & AL GREEN



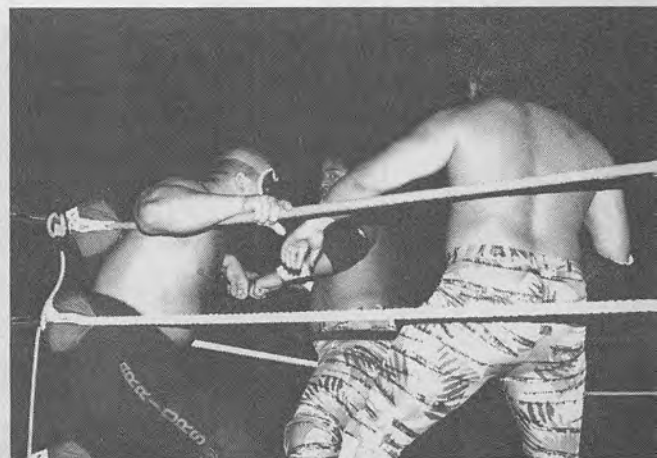
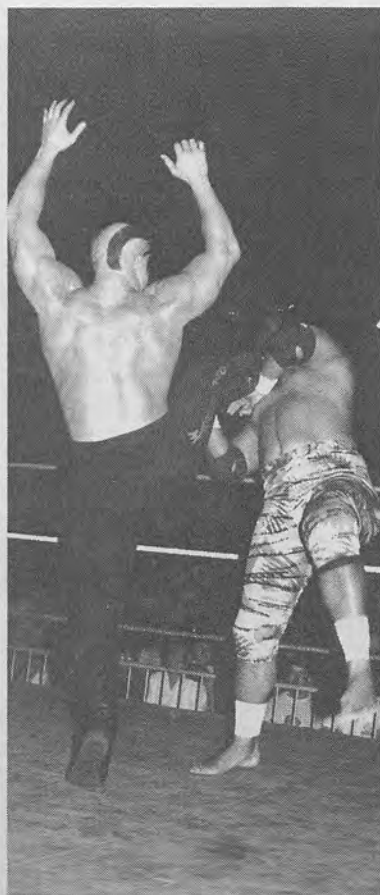
Green gives Stan Lane an arm twist (far left). Lane is trapped in his opponents' corner (left). Lane kicks Ron Simmons away from Bobby Eaton (bottom left). Eaton drapes Green over the ropes and Lane dives on him (below). The Midnight Express defeated their less-experienced foes.



THE ROAD WARRIORS VS. THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM

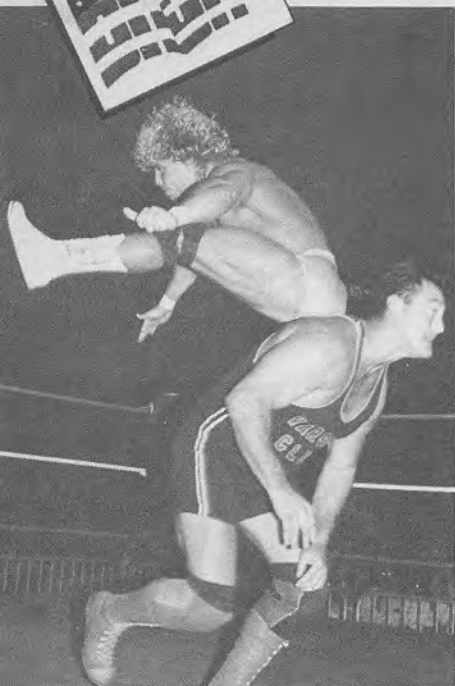


Animal kicks Samu in the head (above) and Hawk does the same to Fatu (right). The Samoans double-team Animal in the corner (far right top). Even after both teams are disqualified, Hawk and Fatu fight it out all the way back to the locker room (far right bottom)!

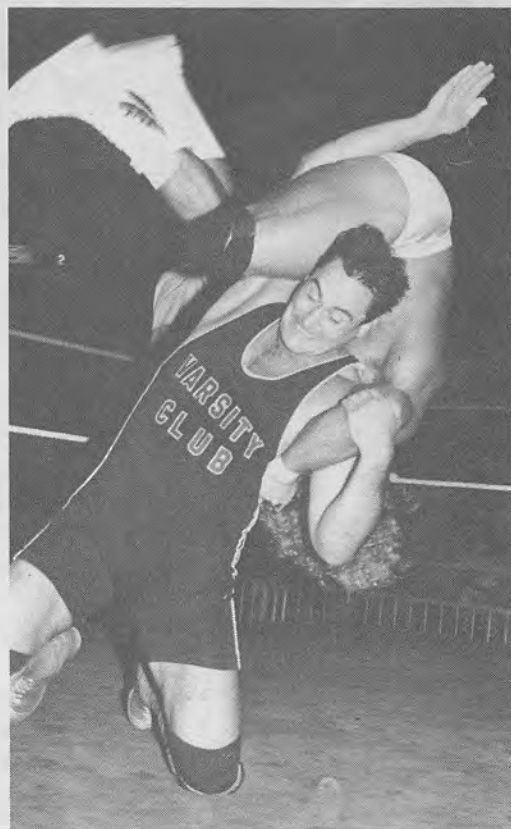
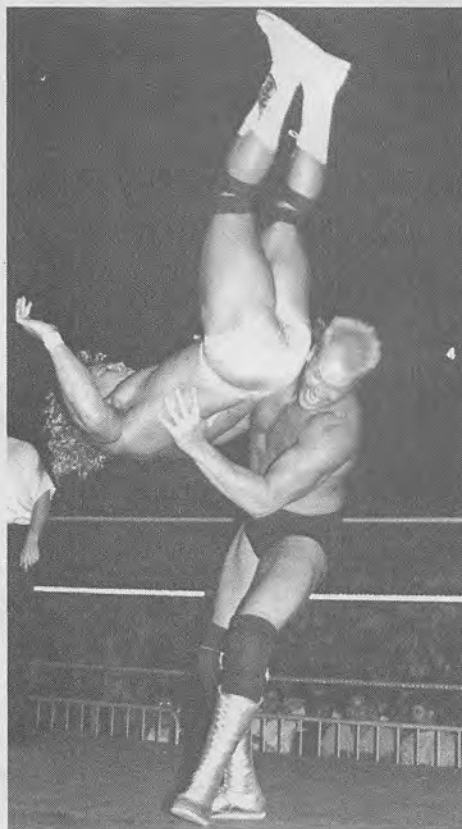




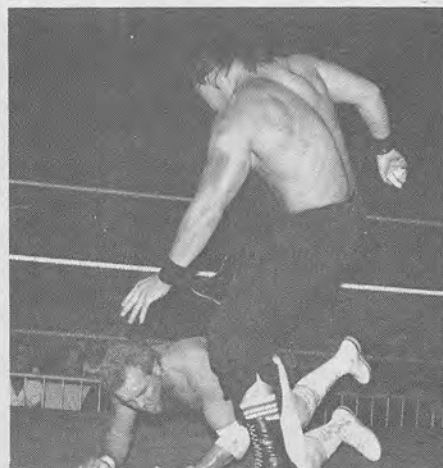
MIKE ROTUNDO & DAN SPIVEY VS. SCOTT HALL & BRIAN PILLMAN



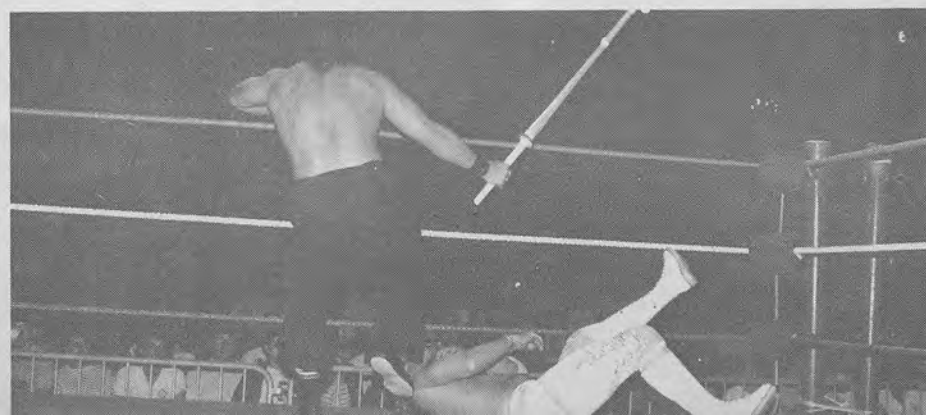
Brian Pillman leapfrogs Mike Rotundo (above). Dan Spivey catches Pillman in a side suplex (right), while Rotundo flips Brian out of a fireman's carry (far right).



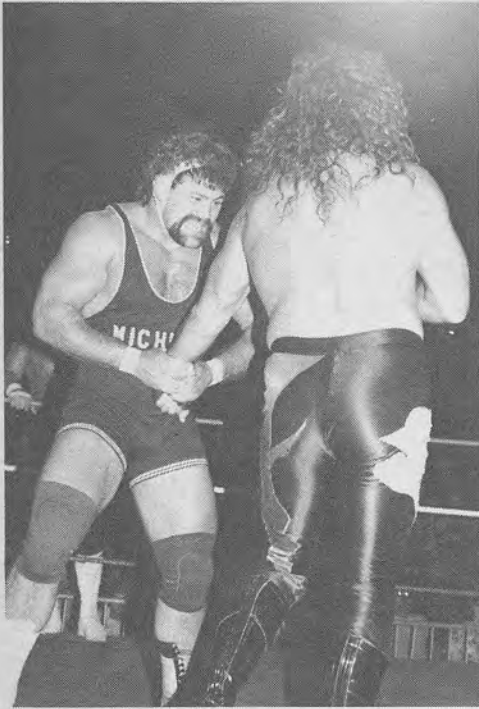
THE GREAT MUTA VS. EDDIE GILBERT



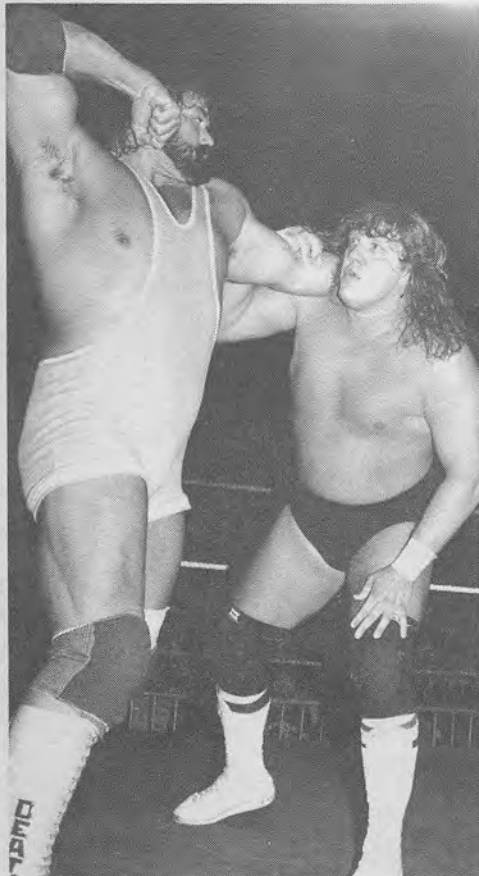
The Great Muta spits his mysterious green fog into Eddie Gilbert's face (above), and uses the opening to stomp (above left) and pummel (above right) his opponent. Muta also used a kendo stick as part of this "dragon shi" match (right).



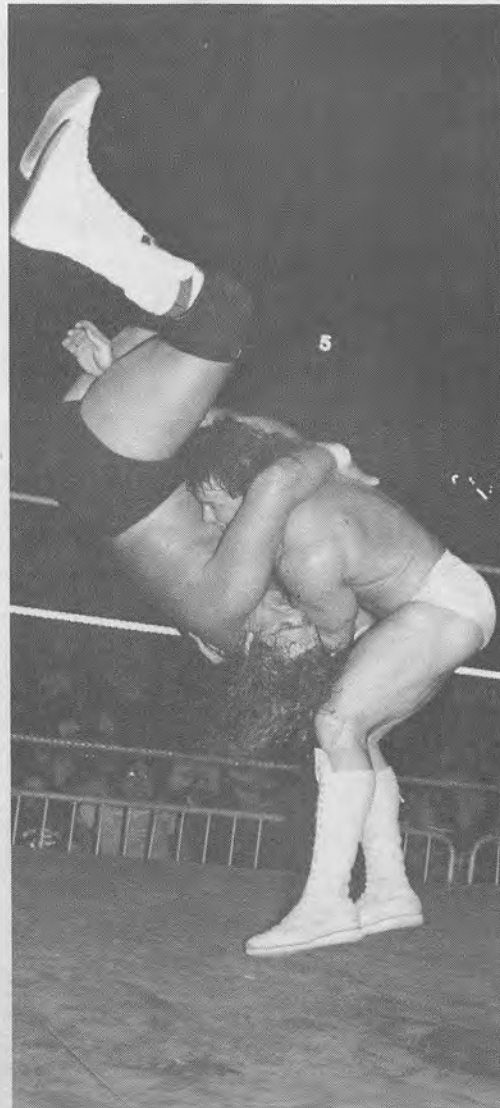
THE FABULOUS FREEBIRDS VS. STEVE WILLIAMS, RICK STEINER, & SCOTT STEINER



Rick Steiner twists the arm of Jim Garvin (far left). Steve Williams presses Michael Hayes over his head (left) while young Scott Steiner flattens Terry Gordy, slamming into him at top speed (above).

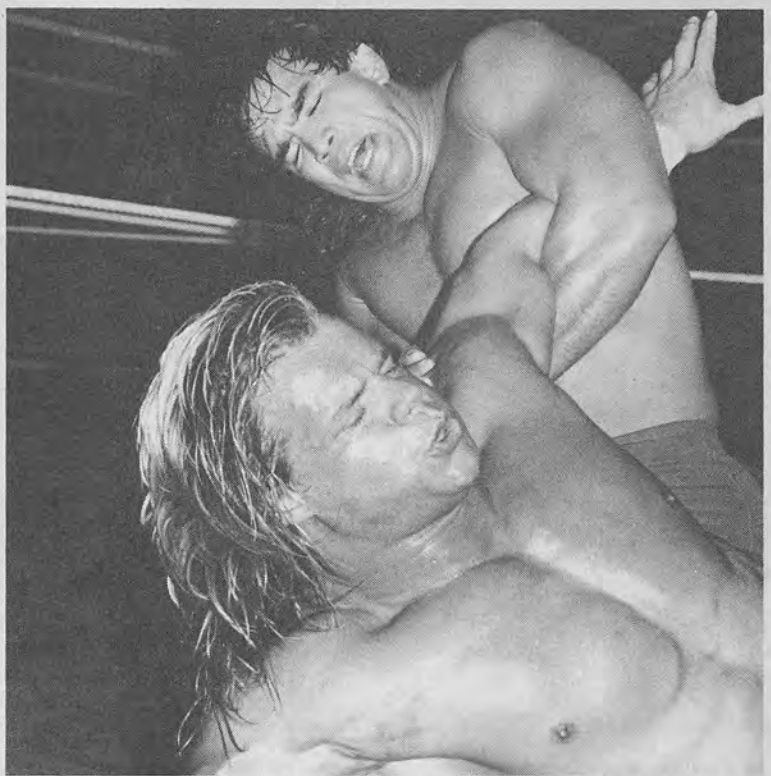
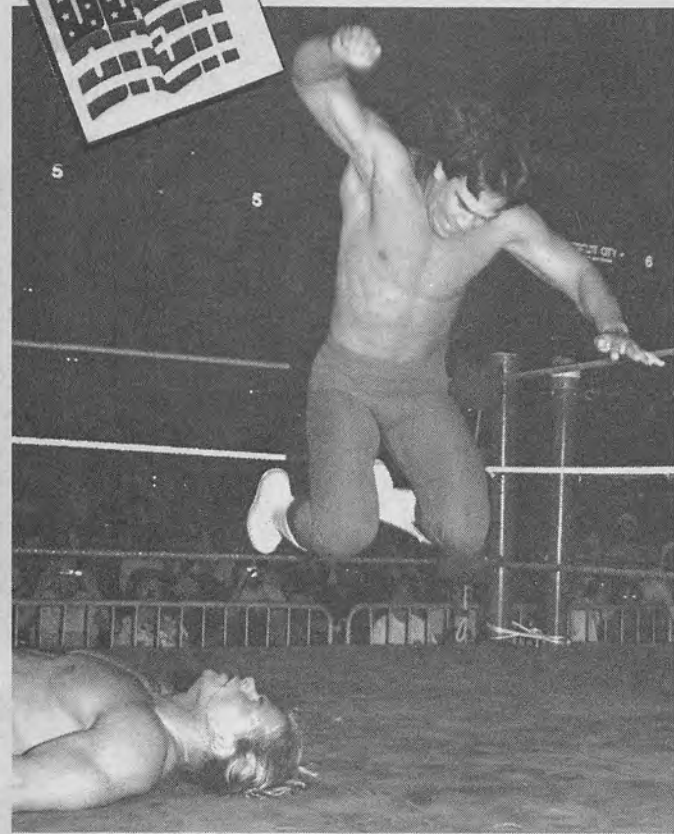


Williams prepares to slug Gordy (above), while Scott Steiner slams Gordy (right). Gordy comes back to deliver a vicious suplex to Williams (far right). The Freebirds' performances during the Bash have been marked by excessive cheating.

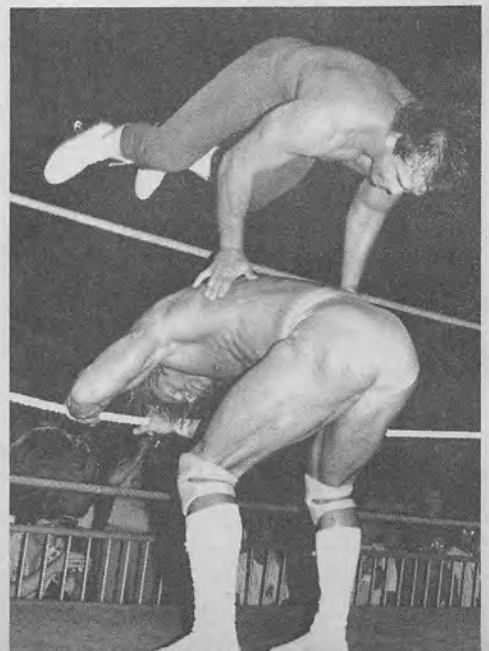
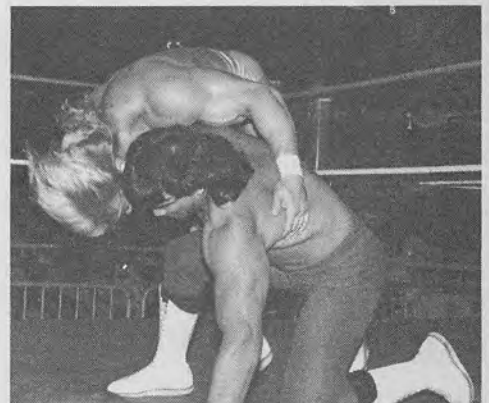
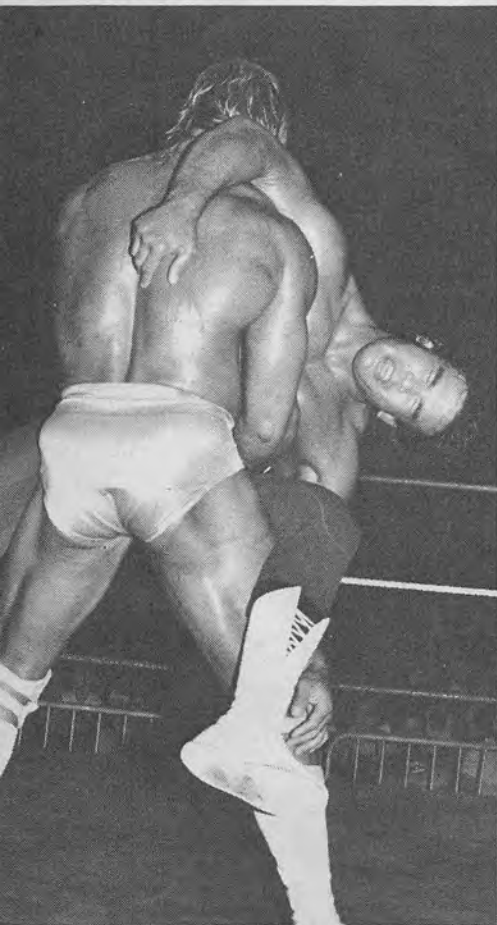




LEX LUGER VS. RICK STEAMBOAT

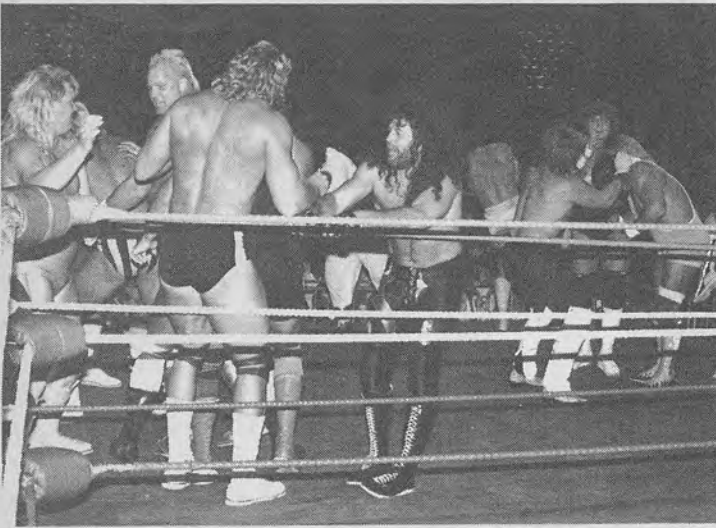


Rick Steamboat delivers a powerful knee to Lex Luger's forehead (left) and follows up with an armlock (above). Luger's U.S. title was on the line in this contest.

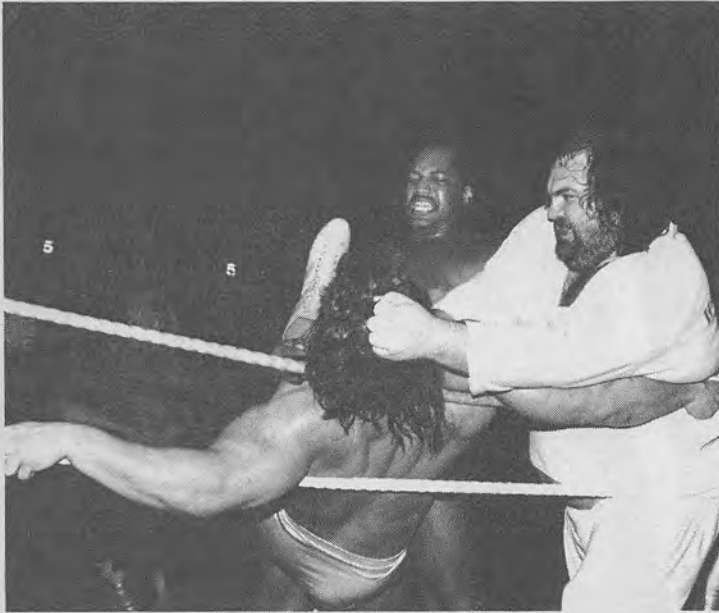


Steamboat collapses under the pressure of Luger's bearhug (above left). Luger, continuing with his power attack, chokes "The Dragon" with his massive hands (above right). Steamboat flips Luger to the mat (top right) and goes for a pin attempt with the sunset flip (right).

TWO-RING BATTLE ROYAL!



In the bout's early moments, Dan Spivey faces off with Bobby Eaton, Jim Garvin tangles with Scott Hall, and Terry Gordy and Bill Irwin double-team Steve Williams (above). Williams, Johnny Ace, and Stan Lane dump Irwin into ring two (right).



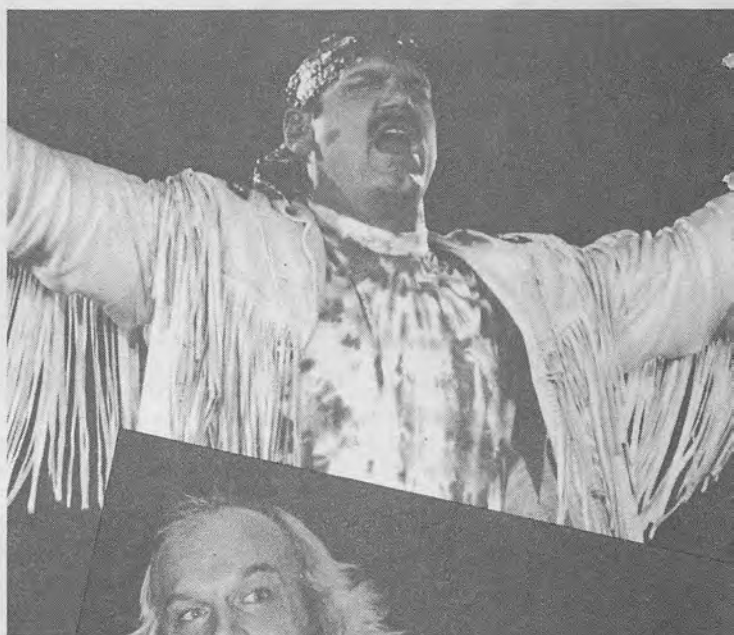
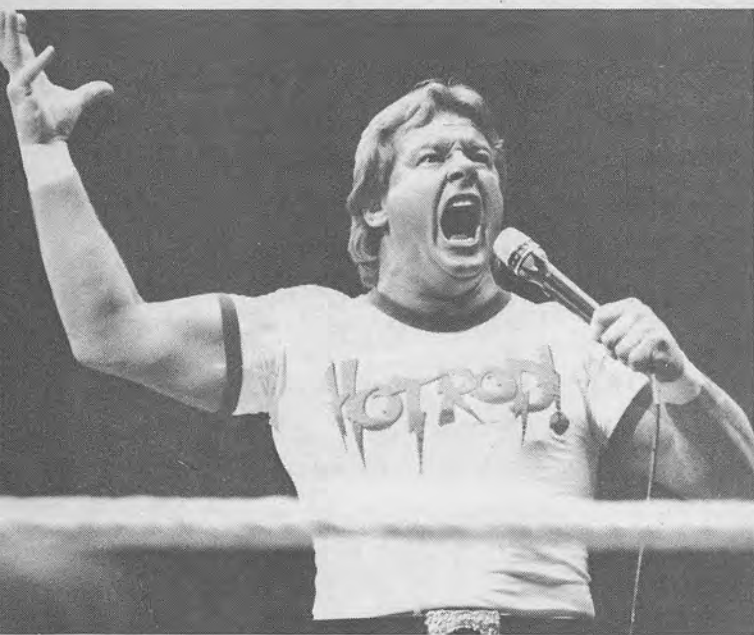
Norman the Lunatic and Ron Simmons double-team Scott Steiner against the ropes (left). Sting catapults Michael Hayes over the ropes in ring two to win the battle royal (above).



As Sting celebrates his victory, Terry Funk rushes into the ring and attacks him from behind with his branding iron (above), causing the "Stinger" to be carried back to the dressing room on a stretcher (right).



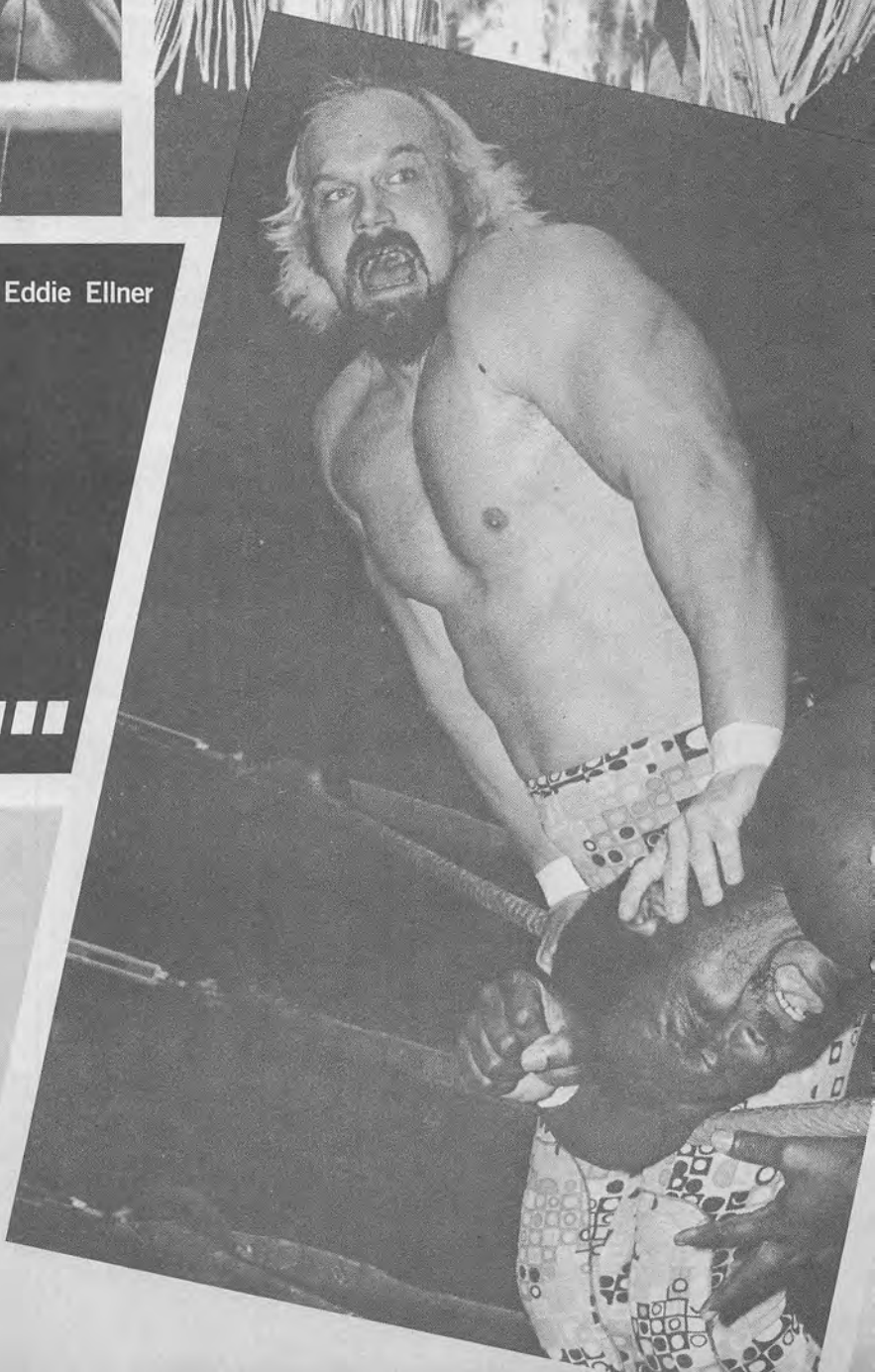
Roddy Piper & Jesse Ventura:



BATTLE OF THE AIRWAVES...

By Eddie Ellner

HEADED FOR THE RING?



Roddy Piper and Jesse Ventura: Two remarkable broadcasting talents with two monumentally huge egos. Their obvious rivalry over WWF announcing duties can't help but spill over into the ring!

FINALLY, THERE IS something interesting, exciting, *compelling* unfolding in the WWF. No, Matilda did not learn the figure-four leglock. No, Sherri Martel did not reveal herself to be a man. You people have become hopelessly jaded by what the WWF pawns off as "sports entertainment." Looks like I get to deliver the good news myself.

A sliver of hope exists that, by year's end, wrestling fans may be treated to the type of battle that instantly attains legendary status. I won't keep you waiting any longer.

Try this one on for size:

Jesse Ventura vs. Roddy Piper.

Although no punches have yet been thrown and no threats issued, a feud between wrestling's two most provocative personalities appears inevitable. Piper, now firmly back from retirement, landed the choicest broadcasting assignment in all of wrestling, as co-host with Gorilla Monsoon on the WWF's weekly two-hour USA Network show, *Prime Time Wrestling*. Piper replaces Bobby Heenan, who had achieved a cult fame since his April 1986 debut that in turn contributed to *Prime Time*'s consistently strong showing in the cable ratings.

Will Piper's rambling, demonstra-

tive style ruin the delicate chemistry Monsoon and Heenan established? Probably. But this is Roddy Piper, ladies and gentlemen, the man who reinvented the art of television commentary. There is no one better with a microphone than he.

Or is there?

Ventura harbors no illusions. The success of *Predator* and *The Running Man*, his two major forays on the big screen, he attributes solely to one big man with two funny names. Arnold Schwarzenegger took a shine to Ventura and has almost succeeded in turning the ex-AWA tag team champion into a movie star.

Indeed, in an interview in the Winter 1987 edition of *Wrestling 87*, Ventura looked to his future as "rising in Hollywood. I don't know to what level. Arnold Schwarzenegger says that the sky's the limit for me."

Yet, enamored as he is with Hollywood, Ventura remains firmly entrenched in the pro wrestling scene. The recent series of Miller Lite commercials he filmed with Vince McMahon and the Miller Lite team of ex-athletes, in which he *appeared* as a wrestler, gave him more exposure than both his movies combined.

"Don't let Jesse fool you," admitted one Hollywood source. "However busy he is with the movies, he coveted that gig on *Prime Time*. When you crave the spotlight the way Jesse does, you don't turn down a job that gives more exposure than almost any other in wrestling."

Thus far, Jesse has given no indication he resents Piper landing the job. In the past, Ventura has been outspoken in his support of the "Rowdy Scot." But Ventura,

(Continued on page 46)



SAVAGE VS. HOGAN

By Dave Rosenbaum

ON SEPTEMBER 28, 1985, in the Philadelphia Spectrum, WWF World champion Hulk Hogan defeated Randy Savage in their first-ever confrontation. The war was on.

On September 23, 1987, in Hershey, Pennsylvania, Hogan saved Savage from an attack by Honky Tonk Man and The Hart Foundation. The Megapowers were formed. The war was over.

On February 5, 1989, The Megapowers erupted. Hogan and Savage came to blows and, once again, the war was on.

But was it ever really over?

And can it ever really end?

Eventually, Hogan and Savage will get involved in a battle so fierce, a battle in which so much damage is done, that their war will not be able to go on in a physical sense. Even then, however, the mental warfare will continue. The "Hulkster" and the "Macho Man" are natural rivals, and their one-year alliance was unnatural. Somehow, they *will* war forever.

SummerSlam '89, scheduled for August 27 at the Byrne Meadowlands Arena in East Rutherford, New Jersey—where Hogan and Brutus Beefcake will team up against Savage and Zeus—cannot end what was meant to be.

"I remember September 28, 1985, like it was yesterday," veteran reporter Matt Brock said. "The NWA and AWA combined



Randy Savage pushes his boot into Hulk Hogan's face. The "Macho Man" and the "Hulkster" have been enemies, friends, and then enemies again.

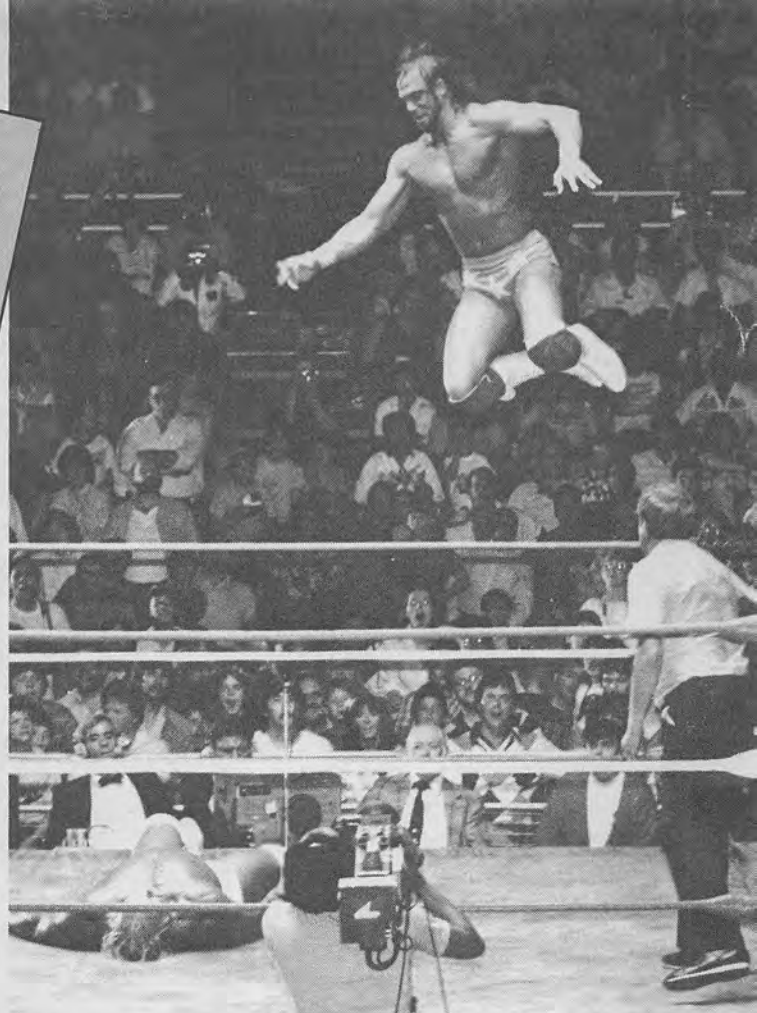
for a big card up at Comiskey Park in Chicago, and every big name was on it. Ric Flair vs. Magnum T.A. for the NWA World title, Rick Martel vs. Stan Hansen for the AWA World title, The Road Warriors vs. The Fabulous Freebirds. 20,000 people were there, and the eyes of the entire wrestling world were on that card.

"As it turned out, the most significant event of that night took

place in *Philadelphia*. Which is obvious, because the Hogan-Savage war is still going on. But the night it happened, hardly anybody noticed. Hindsight will get you nowhere in this sport."

They're noticing now. And, with the luxury of hindsight, what fan *wouldn't* have paid money to be there that night in 1985 when it all began? Now, fans are queuing up for the opportunity to be at

SummerSlam Will Not End This War!!



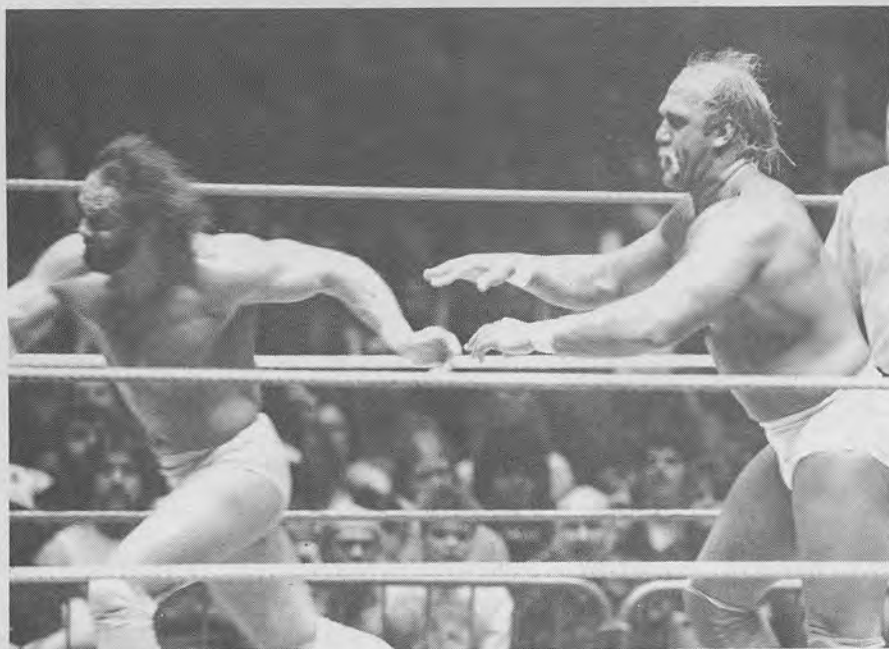
Savage maneuvers Hogan into a sleeper (left). "Macho Man" leaps at the champion from the top rope (above). The rivals prepare to lock up (bottom). The fact that their encounter at SummerSlam will be in a tag team match does not lessen the intensity of this feud.

The four-year relationship between Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage has been marked by long periods of violence and intermittent spells of friendship. Now the war is on, and SummerSlam can't quench the fire. Step aside, Zeus! Let the battles continue!

SummerSlam where, ironically, the clash has been watered down by the presence of tag team partners, and somewhat overshadowed by a secondary feud that promises to truly be short-lived: Hogan vs. Zeus.

The Savage-Hogan feud, of course, is an everlasting part of wrestling history, while Hogan-Zeus may one day be an insignificant footnote. *Hey, remember the time when that movie star character, Tony Lister, took his role in **No Holds Barred** too seriously and they let him wrestle Hogan?* Well, first of all, that's *Tiny* Lister, not Tony. And second of all, from





Hogan whips Savage across the ring (left) and kicks him in the face (below). When their feud began four years ago, neither man could have thought the rivalry would eventually dominate the WWF.

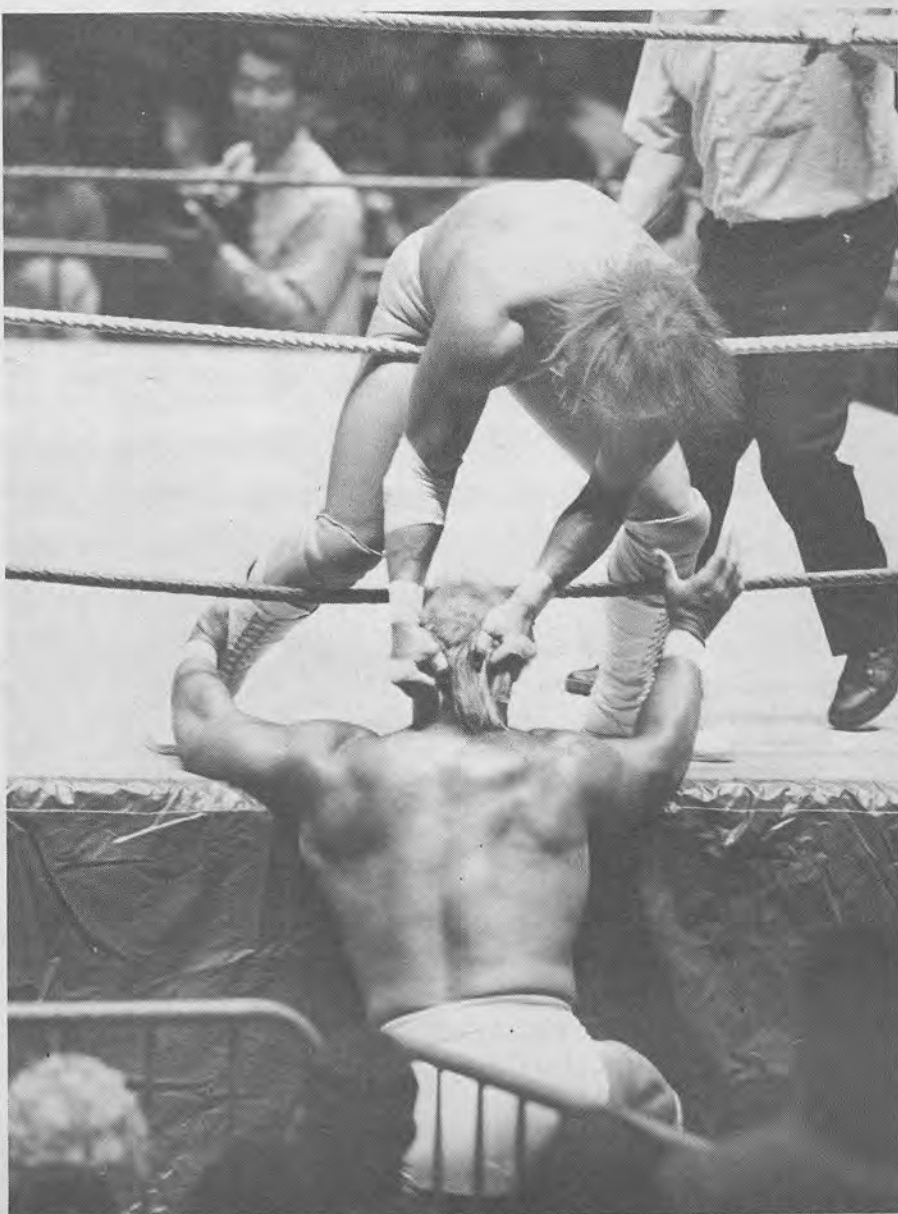


a historic perspective, Hogan vs. Zeus belongs in the same department as Hogan's teaming with Mr. T at the first WrestleMania.

Hogan vs. Savage, meanwhile, deserves to stand alongside Bruno Sammartino vs. Stan Stasiak and Bob Backlund vs. Jimmy Snuka in WWF annals. It is the feud around which the federation has revolved since last February. Prior to that, their alliance controlled the flow of WWF activity for more than a year. From a wrestling standpoint, Hogan is the best brawler in the WWF; Savage is the best overall wrestler.

"The lasting power of this feud was really tested at WrestleMania V," said Brock. "Hogan scored as convincing a victory as possible over Savage, yet it goes on. Right then and there, we learned who the better man was, but now we have this situation with Sherri Martel and Elizabeth. And Savage, of course, would never admit that Hogan's the better man. Besides, the fans want to see them go at it."

Unfortunately, the fans won't be satisfied by SummerSlam. There, the focus will be on Hogan vs. Zeus, a mismatch if ever there was one. Only if Savage is compelled to save his partner from the



Savage drags Hogan back into the ring. Although at the moment Hogan's main target is Zeus, he hasn't forgotten that Savage is the real number-one contender to his World title.



The "Macho Man" chokes Hogan as "Sensational" Sherri Martel watches at ringside. Sherri and Elizabeth have also become wrapped up in this feud. In fact, Elizabeth has already confronted Sherri several times, displaying a more aggressive nature.

SUMMERSLAM '89: SAME TIME, NEXT YEAR

It's hard to believe only a year has passed since SummerSlam '88 at Madison Square Garden. So much has happened to both Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage since their battle against Ted DiBiase and Andre the Giant.

In retrospect, however, signs of a rift between The Megapowers were already apparent last August. Savage was the WWF World champion and Hogan had just returned from a brief hiatus. Although Hogan publicly claimed support for Savage's title reign, insiders said that Hogan went to WWF officials and requested a match against the "Macho Man."

Then, of course, there was the Elizabeth factor. Around the time of SummerSlam '88, Hogan declared that "Elizabeth is *our* manager." In fact, Hogan was the one who suggested that Elizabeth would appear at Madison Square Garden wearing the team's secret weapon: an "itsy-bitsy, teenie-weenie, yellow polkadot bikini." It has since been learned that Savage was irate over this and finally insisted that Elizabeth wear a more discreet, one-piece red bathing suit.

The Megapowers beat The Megabucks, thanks to Elizabeth's toned-down secret weapon. But the "Hulkster's" postmatch celebration, when he allegedly touched Elizabeth's shapely bottom, was later used by Savage as evidence that Hogan lusted after the beautiful manager.

And so, the circumstances that led to Savage and Hogan being on opposite sides at SummerSlam '89 can be traced back to SummerSlam '88.

—Dave Rosenbaum

vicious beating he's bound to sustain will the matchup fans *really* want to see take place. Even then, what would be accomplished?

Savage wants revenge against Hogan. He also wants the World title.

Hogan is geared up for a showdown with Zeus. The "Hulkster" has only one thing to gain from SummerSlam, and that's to put the movie star monster back in his place. For the moment—and *only* for the moment—Savage is secondary.

Soon, however, Zeus will fade into the sunset, and we'll be left where we started: Hogan vs. Savage.

The fuel added to this fire is Elizabeth, who is expected to be in Hogan and Beefcake's corner, right opposite Savage's new manager, "Sensational" Sherri. Elizabeth's return in early July at a Detroit card shocked the wrestling world, especially since it was expected that her retirement was permanent. Even more shocking was Elizabeth's new aggressive nature in confronting Sherri and resorting to violence.

What's next?

Elizabeth's sympathies may truly lie in Hogan's corner, or she is deeply jealous of Martel's relationship with Savage. Either way, the war between Hogan and Savage has extended to Elizabeth and Martel. This battle will rage far beyond SummerSlam. *Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned.*

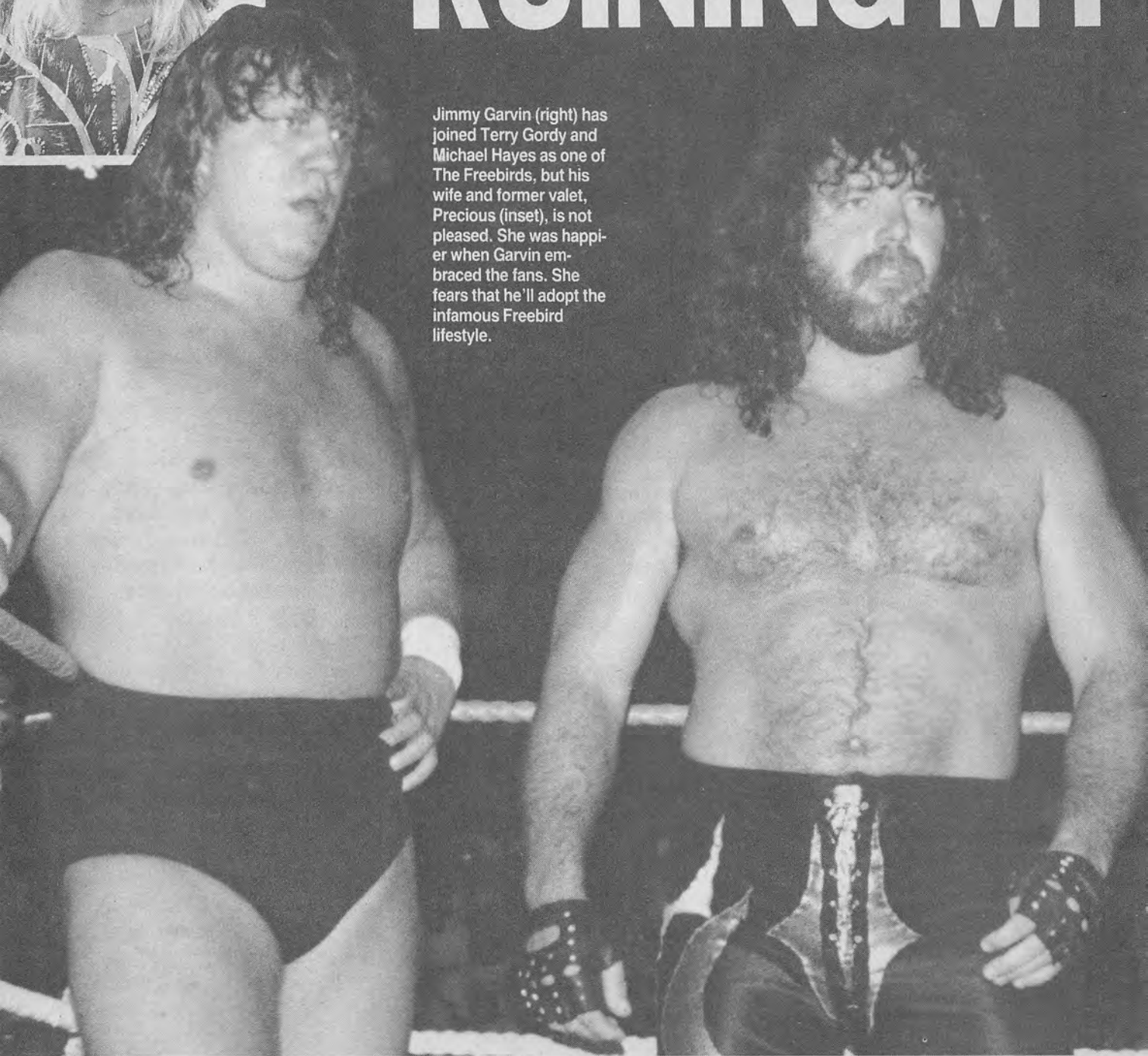
There's never been a repeat main event at WrestleMania, but as we head full-tilt toward the end of 1989 and into a new decade, a feud that began in 1985 is raging hotter than ever. Hogan and Savage did battle at WrestleMania V. They'll meet again at SummerSlam '89.

At WrestleMania VI, don't be surprised if they meet yet again. And if it's another tag team match, the men on their teams just might be women. □

THE FREE RUINING MY



Jimmy Garvin (right) has joined Terry Gordy and Michael Hayes as one of The Freebirds, but his wife and former valet, Precious (inset), is not pleased. She was happier when Garvin embraced the fans. She fears that he'll adopt the infamous Freebird lifestyle.



By Precious

MY HUSBAND COMES home after a hard day's work and he's always in a great mood. He throws his NWA World tag team title belt on the couch,

puts his arms around me, and gives me a great big kiss.

So why am I so miserable?

It wasn't that long ago I was the happiest woman in the world. I was the wife and valet of the one and only "Gorgeous" Jimmy

Garvin, one of the most popular (and the most handsome) wrestlers in this sport. I was proud to accompany my superstar husband to the ring. Believe me, together we were the hottest thing going. It was a great life.

BIRDS ARE HUSBAND



But I'm sorry to say that I'm not very happy now, and that's why you aren't seeing me at ringside anymore. You see, those Freebird creeps, Michael Hayes and Terry Gordy, are ruining my husband. Sure, now Jimmy holds one-half

of the NWA World tag team title, but he's also back to being a rule-breaker again. And that's what's making me so upset.

Life can be funny, can't it? Last year was one of the best ones Jimmy and I ever had. First, Jim-

Jim Garvin is thrilled now that he's a member of The Freebirds and holds one-half of the NWA World tag team title. But his wife, Precious, is absolutely miserable. She doesn't like the fact that her man is a vicious rulebreaker again. Here, she gives her side of the story behind her husband's shocking change!

my patched things up with his brother, Ronnie, and it was a heartwarming reunion. And July 10, 1988, was one of the happiest days of my life. That was when Jimmy thrashed Kevin Sullivan, a guy who'd been hounding me for months, at the end of the first-ever "Tower of Doom" match. Sullivan had put me through hell, but after that match I knew my man would go to any lengths to ensure my happiness.

The weeks that followed that victory were fabulous. Jimmy and I were never closer, and he was winning all his matches—but the fans were the biggest reason for my happiness. The people were treating us like royalty. For the first time in our careers, we had the public on our side, and it was a terrific feeling. It was all so nice, I vowed I would never have anything to do with breaking the rules again.

Unfortunately, a serious injury would grind everything to a sudden halt. We were on our way to the ring last August 31 when Jimmy was attacked by Sullivan again. That evil "Gamesmaster"

(Continued on page 58)

INTERVIEW

WAHOO McDANIEL

IT WAS AS great a career as a wrestler could ever hope for. When Ed "Wahoo" McDaniel left professional football and set his sights on becoming a full-time professional wrestler in 1968 (he had wrestled pro on a part-time basis since 1961), his biggest hope was that he would be able to make a positive impact on the sport.

That he surely did. For the next 21 years, the 5'11", 280-pound Texas native was one of the most popular and talented grapplers ever seen in American rings. McDaniel's years as a linebacker with football's Dallas Cowboys, New York Jets, Miami Dolphins, and Denver Broncos served him well as he dominated his opponents in federations all over the country with his rugged style.

McDaniel's temper was legendary. Those who were foolish enough to mock the full-blooded American Indian's heritage would find themselves with an opponent who was impossible to shake. Many times, feuds would end with Indian strap matches, of which Wahoo was proud to say he never lost a single one. His victims included such greats as Roddy Piper, Manny Fernandez, Nick Bockwinkel, and Curt Hennig.

And there were the championships: Five times between 1981 and 1984, Wahoo captured the prestigious NWA U.S. title. In 1984, he teamed with Mark Youngblood to win the NWA World tag team title twice. In 1985, McDaniel defeated Rick Rude for the Southern championship, and also teamed with Billy Jack Haynes to defeat Rude and Jesse Barr for the Flori-



After a highly successful 28-year career, Wahoo McDaniel has retired. McDaniel has won the U.S., National, and Southern singles titles, as well as the NWA World tag title.

da U.S. tag team title. And in 1986, he downed the notorious Tully Blanchard for the National belt, his final singles title. No matter who the opponents were or where he was competing, McDaniel was always at the forefront of title contention.

Now it is all over. McDaniel was savagely attacked by The Destruction Crew—Mike Enos and Wayne

Bloom—during a June tag team match. McDaniel suffered a detached retina in his right eye as the result of the brutal assault, and doctors advised him never to wrestle again. Senior Editor Bill Apter, a longtime observer of McDaniel's career, caught up with this remarkable man as he prepared for his new duties as a road agent for the NWA.

Q: Wahoo, this will be a very bitter-sweet interview for me to conduct. There have been so many great matches you've competed in over the past two decades, I don't even know where to start. I guess I'll begin by asking you exactly why you've decided to hang up the wrestling boots at this point.

A: Bill, you've been a good friend of mine for the past 20 years, so you know I'll give you an honest answer. When Bloom and Enos attacked me, I suffered something called a detached retina. In laymen's terms, I guess it means they just about beat my right eyeball right out of its socket. I had to go in for surgery, and they told me that my vision will eventually recover 100 percent, which is good. But what *isn't* so good is what could happen if I continue my wrestling career. It's the same thing that happened to Sugar Ray Leonard a few years ago, and it's why he had to stay away from the ring for such a long time.

Q: That's true, but he eventually came back to boxing. Do you think there's a chance you could come back to wrestling after your eye heals?

A: I really doubt it. At first, retirement was the furthest thing from my mind, because all I wanted was revenge on Enos and Bloom because of what they did to me. But this is one time where the rule-breaking element got away with it, you could say. Hey, my doctors were real blunt about it. If I get hit in the eye again, I could lose my vision for life. And that's more important than my wrestling career could ever be. I think it would really be foolish to try and wrestle again after an injury that's this bad, particularly at my age.

Q: A lot of fans are sad that your career ended when it did, though. You seemed on the verge of winning the AWA World championship from Larry Zbyszko several times, and you even managed to pin him cleanly in a recent tag



Mike Enos batters McDaniel. Enos and Wayne Bloom—The Destruction Crew—hastened Wahoo's retirement by giving him a detached retina. McDaniel is reluctant to leave the ring, but is unwilling to risk permanent injury by continuing to wrestle.

team match.

A: That's true. You know, Zbyszko is the worst excuse for a champion that the AWA has ever seen. It always seemed that when I had Larry beat, he would find a way to run from the ring or cause a disqualification. I *still* think I could beat him. I also thought that with the right partner, I'd go after the AWA World tag team championship, too. I guess it's all water under the bridge now, but I can't complain. After 28 years as a pro wrestler, I've had more than my share of success.

Q: That you did. But, as everyone

knows, you had your share of feuds, too. Who stands out in your mind as the toughest man you ever had to wrestle?

A: Well, I've met a lot of men with a lot of different styles, so that's a pretty tough question to answer. In my early days, I would've given the nod to guys like Nick Bockwinkel and Ray Stevens. Not only were they great technical wrestlers, but they could brawl with the best of them—and they were some of the most devious men I've ever met. Today's stars, however, don't have to take a backseat to any of those guys. I can clearly remember a



Wahoo executes a split on Harley Race in one of his vain attempts to capture the NWA World title. Wahoo's main regret is that he never won a world title.

couple of NWA World title matches against Ric Flair that were among the hardest fought of my career. And Curt Hennig had all the tools, even though he was as sneaky as they come. Then there were Rick Steamboat and Magnum T.A. . . .

Q: Both of whom you had quite a feud with back in 1984 and 1985—when you wrestled as a rulebreaker. You really shocked your fans back then.

A: (pauses) That's right. And believe me, Bill, it's my biggest regret as a wrestler. For about 10 months, I forgot about the fans, broke all the rules, and basically ruined all the goodwill I had built up over all the previous years—all because of a misunderstanding. I was led to believe that Steamboat and Flair were somehow trying to keep me away from a shot at the NWA World title. As it turned out, I had been doing a little too much listening to

guys like Tully Blanchard. Luckily, I came to my senses soon enough, and I got my revenge on Blanchard by beating him for the National title a few months later. I always felt badly, though, about all the fans I turned my back on. That's why I hope the last three years of my career did a lot to regain the respect of all the people out there.

Q: I think your rulebreaking stint was pretty much forgotten by the time you moved to the AWA back in 1987. You had some classic World title matches against Hennig and Zbyszko during your time there.

A: That's my *second* biggest regret. You know, I came so close to winning a world belt so many times during my career that I could almost taste it. From Nick Bockwinkel and Harley Race to Ric Flair and Curt Hennig, it was always a continuous source of frustration for me. One of the most heartbreaking losses I remember

came back in 1987, when I had Hennig beat in an Indian strap match in Las Vegas. I had touched three posts and was going for the fourth when Adrian Adonis ran out and cut the strap. I won the match on a disqualification, but I didn't win the title. There was no doubt in anyone's mind that I was on the verge of winning that bout, and I felt I was robbed. That's why, until the very last day of my career, I was always striving to win the AWA World title. There were times when I would ask myself what I was doing it for, but the cheers of the fans always made me feel better.

Q: It also must make you feel better to know that you're not leaving wrestling entirely. What duties will you have in the NWA?

A: Well, Bill, I'll be serving as a road agent, which is exactly as it sounds, really. I'll be involved with the wrestlers on a day-to-day basis,



McDaniel smacks Nick Bockwinkel in a bloody battle. Bockwinkel was one of Wahoo's many victims in the Indian strap match. Wahoo claims he's never lost a strap encounter.

scheduling trips for them and making sure everything is ready to go at the arenas. I'll also be involved in some front-office work, but right now I'm not sure of what that will consist of. All I know is that I'll still be traveling the same way I did when I was a wrestler, but now I won't have to take any of the lumps and bumps that go along with it (*laughs*).

Q: Will you be able to resist getting back in the ring, though? There have been other stars who have "retired" in recent years, such as Roddy Piper and Billy Jack Haynes, but the call of the squared circle proved to be too much for them.

A: Hey, I can understand that. Even with all the injuries and feuds I've had in my career, there isn't a minute of it I'd trade for anything else. That's why I'm thankful to the NWA for allowing me to stay in the sport. I know that other men like Piper and my ol' buddy

Billy Jack have retired and come back, but in my case I would be foolish to return to battle. After all, there was only one way I competed when I was in there, and that was to go all out. With a bad eye like mine, that would only be asking for trouble. No, Bill, when Wahoo McDaniel says he's gonna retire, you can be sure it's gonna stick.

Q: And I'm sure that there isn't a fan who has seen you wrestle that will ever forget you. Thanks for the interview, Wahoo, and thanks for all the memories. You'll certainly go down in history as one of the all-time greats.

A: The pleasure was all mine, Bill. But before we go, I'd like to say a special goodbye to my fans. They were the biggest reason for all my success, and I've just got to thank them for everything. Even as I put away my war bonnet for the last time, my thoughts are with them. I love 'em all! ☐

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**A MUST—FOR FANS WHO
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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 7)

rriors didn't tear him apart right on the spot. They would've had every right to, and I would've stood up and cheered.

It didn't surprise me to see that Eddie Ellner didn't think Long should be banned. Ellner is totally blind when it comes to the rules. It's incredible that Ellner thinks Jim Herd was to blame. I just can't believe that.

TOM PHELPS
Kansas City, KS

LET FANS BE FANS

With her letter in the August 1989 issue ("The People's Choice"), Betty Torgen really showed she has a problem. It's incredible that people really think that because the fans wanted Eric Embry back, that was reason enough for World Class to give in and bring him back. Well, look at all the trouble it's caused now: World Class is owned by a wrestler, Akbar and his army are more out of control than ever, and people are losing loser-leave-town matches and not leaving town!

It's all because of the fans. When the fans start getting too involved in a sport, bad things happen. The problem is that there's a line between participation and spectating, and it's been crossed too many times. Officials make decisions. Wrestlers wrestle. Fans watch and root. I'm satisfied with my role as a fan. I have enough problems in my own life to worry about without getting involved in something that's just a diversion to me.

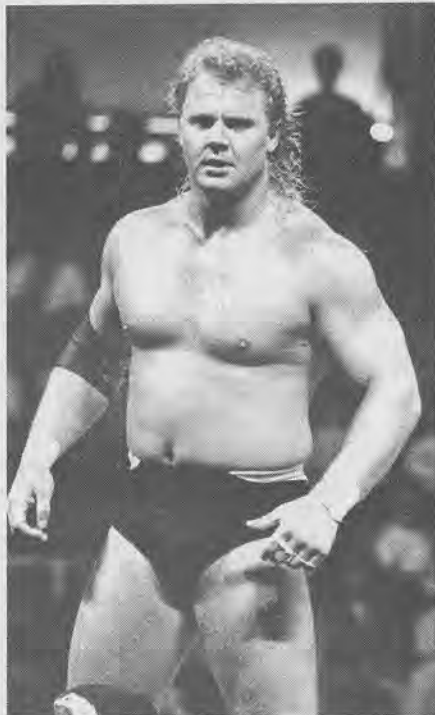
BIANCA HARRIS
Shreveport, LA

SOME REAL CONTENDERS

I'm sick of seeing Hulk Hogan wrestle the same opponents week after week. We either see him fighting Randy Savage, Big Bossman, or Akeem. Let's see Hogan battle The Ultimate Warrior or Rick Martel. Martel, a former AWA World champion, would be a real test for the WWF champ. Even Curt Hennig vs. Hogan would be a fantastic match. Curt is a former

AWA World champ and is currently undefeated in the WWF. Come on Hulkster! Run wild on someone else!

DAVE LINDSTROM
Bristol, CT



"Mr. Perfect" Curt Hennig would be a worthy challenger to Hulk Hogan, in reader Dave Lindstrom's opinion. Hennig himself is a former world champion.

KERRY'S THE MAN!

In naming Eric Embry "Wrestler of the Month" (August 1989), you mistakenly claimed that "Texas is Eric Embry country." Nothing could be further from the truth. The Lone Star State belongs to the man who has always fought for the fans with honor and integrity: Kerry Von Erich.

Embry is the object of the short-lived infatuation by Texas fans that caused the enormous rise in popularity of such previous stars as Dingo Warrior, Lance Von Erich, Jimmy Jack Funk, and Steve Simpson. Yet none of these stars has even come close to matching the popularity of the "Modern-Day Warrior."

It is doubtful that Embry, or any other World Class star, will ever receive the kind of crowd reaction that Kerry does when he enters the Sportatorium. It is very unlikely that Embry

could have drawn 43,518 fans to Texas Stadium to witness a battle with Ric Flair. At the end of the year, it is highly doubtful that Embry will receive half as many votes as Kerry Von Erich in the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* achievement awards poll.

It seems like yesterday that Texas fans were chanting, "Erica! Erica! Erica!" Now writers claim the man owns the state. Kerry has never turned his back on the fans, and we respect him for that. Texas is Kerry Von Erich country!

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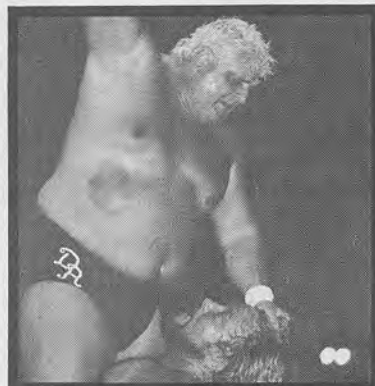
MICHAEL HAYES: "I made **LEX LUGER** a man!" . . . A quick fix for World Class madness: Ban **ERIC EMBRY**! . . . Deception, disgrace, and destiny: The **TEDDY LONG** story . . . Spotlight on **MISSY HYATT** . . . A Q & A interview with **BILLY JACK HAYNES**

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Inside Wrestling



DUSTY RHODES' WWF hit list: **TED DIBIASE**, **TULLY BLANCHARD**, **ARN ANDERSON**, **RICK RUDE**, **BARRY WINDHAM** . . . and **HULK HOGAN**?



THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM roughs up **THE ROAD WARRIORS** . . . and **PAUL ELLERING** loves it!

PLUS . . .

CURT HENNIG'S foolproof plan to remain "Mr. Perfect" . . . **TERRY GORDY** reveals: "I am the **FREEBIRD** enforcer" . . . Why **KEVIN VON ERICH'S** return is tearing Kerry apart . . . **DYNAMITE KID** and **DAVEY BOY SMITH** square off "One on One"

All this and much more . . .
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A SECOND CHANCE TO CATCH "THE BIG ONES"

VENTURA & PIPER

(Continued from page 33)



As a guest on "Piper's Pit," Jesse Ventura wasn't afraid to upstage Roddy Piper with his outrageous opinions. Ventura hasn't wrestled for years, but he might be tempted to climb back in the ring if Piper ever challenged him to a match.

often called "the Tim McCarver of the ring" for his incisive, witty, and intelligent commentary, is proud of his role as the WWF's leading color man. If Piper were to threaten his standing, Ventura would not be one to twiddle his thumbs in silence.

Likewise, Piper has not issued any warnings or declarations of reprimand to Ventura. But his ego is perhaps more unyielding than Ventura's. Though he landed a choice role in John Carpenter's *They Live*, the film did nowhere near the box office Ventura's films did. And *Hell Comes To Frogtown* is hardly an impressive resume-builder.

Because of serious injuries incurred during combat in Vietnam, ex-Navy Seal Ventura has said (again, in that same *Wrestling 87* interview) that the only way he would wrestle again would be if Schwarzenegger trained him for a title match against Hulk Hogan.

But what if his position as leading man in the TV ratings was suddenly usurped? "You know Jesse," said WWF expatriot and ex-NWA champion Rick Steamboat. "He protects his territory. When that territory is encroached upon, he acts like a mother lion protecting her young. He is very dangerous when provoked."

Ideally, you want Piper and Ventura on the same side of the ring, outwrestling, out-talking, and out-smarting the men they've mocked from the broadcasters' booth. For them to be at odds seems a waste of rare natural resources, like two endangered species battling to the death.

An informal poll of resident wrestling experts revealed a split decision as to who would prevail if the Battle of the Mouths *did* take place.

"Ventura is too strong for Piper," opined Capt. Lou Albano. "Jesse would hurt him, then finish him quickly because he respects Piper's ability and wouldn't want to hurt him."

"Dismiss strength and skill and experience off the bat," claimed *Sports Review Wrestling's* Matt Brock. "Ventura is crazier than crazy Piper. All that Navy training allows him to channel his imbalances into constructive destruction. Piper goes crazy and loses self-control. That will be the difference in the match."

"Roddy would never have made this comeback if he intended to lose a battle of wits—or a battle of strength," Bill Apter said. "Piper will meet Ventura in the best shape of his career. Jesse is a little past his prime. Still dangerous, but not nearly enough to stop Piper."

Just a lot of talk? Or might Piper vs. Ventura finally provide a worthy main event for WrestleMania VI? □

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June 1982/COLOR PINUP: Nick Bockwinkel, Adonis & Ventura, Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo, Steamboat & Rich, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera, Rick Steamboat, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski, Rhodes vs. Garvin, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham, Mil Mascaras, Valentine, Orndorff, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton, Rick Martel, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff, Tommy Rich, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko, Roddy Piper, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog, Tommy Rich, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper, Harley Race, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel, Dusty Rhodes, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race, Rick Martel, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine, Greg Valentine, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater, Ted DiBiase, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering, Jimmy Valiant, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

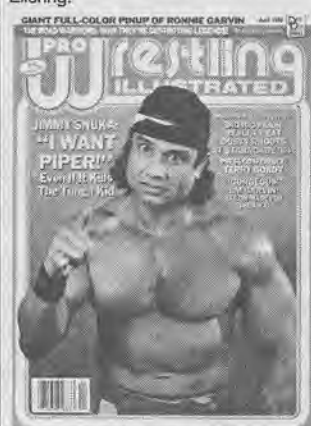
August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen, Jerry Lawler, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack, Kerry Von Erich, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel, Sgt. Slaughter, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana, Road Warriors, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A., Rick Martel, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.



APRIL 1985

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, Jimmy Snuka, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham, Dusty Rhodes, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter, Hogan vs. Piper, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams, Rick Steamboat, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage, Ric Flair, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura, Great American Bash, Von Erich, Orndorff, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hack-saw Duggan, Hulk Hogan, T.A., Brody.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff, Mike Von Erich, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair, Wendi Richter, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat, Road Warriors, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich, Hulk Hogan, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy, R & R Express, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes, Randy Savage, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: Jorin Studd, Nikita Koloff, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll, British Bulldogs, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arm-Ole.

December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash, Great American Bash, Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds, Roddy Piper, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth, UWF Tournament, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Orndorff.

April 1987/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger, Dusty & Nikita, DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams, Andre-Hogan, UWF Tourney, Albano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerry.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan, Magnum T.A., Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers, Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious, Hogan-Andre, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase, Ric Flair, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele, Nikita Koloff, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors, Ted DiBiase, Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, Randy Savage, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel, Lex Luger, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting, Andre, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

June 1988/COLOR PINUP: Tully Blanchard, Hulk Hogan, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

July 1988/COLOR PINUP: Curt Hennig, Hogan vs. Andre, Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

August 1988/COLOR PINUP: Al Perez, Savage & Hogan, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerry Von Erich.

October 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ultimate Warrior, Sting, Savage, Lawler, Williams, Steamboat, Varsity Club.

November 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Midnight Express, Hogan, Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

December 1988/COLOR PINUP: Hack-saw Duggan, Four Horsemen, Brody, Bigelow, Garvin, Precious.

January 1989/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham, Hogan-Savage-Elizabeth, Warriors, Sting.

February 1989/COLOR PINUP: Jake Roberts, Luger, Hogan-Savage, Kevin Von, Beefcake-Bass.

April 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steiner, Savage, Dangerously, Muraco, Turner, Powers.

June 1989/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat, Hogan vs. Savage, Warriors, Zbyszko, Rhodes.

July 1989/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper, Steamboat, Hogan, Paul E., Dream Tournament, Studd, Muraco.

August 1989/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger, Hogan, Ultimate, Steamboat-Flair, Road Warriors, Rhodes.

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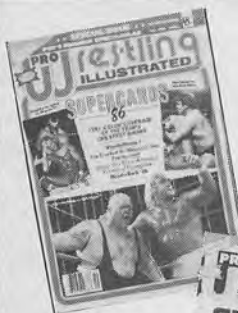
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GREAT AMERICAN BASH

(Continued from page 25)



Terry Funk stands over a fallen Sting after beating him to the ground with his branding iron. Funk's summer was filled with violence as he attempted to land a match against NWA World champion Ric Flair. He was successful.

This year, the stars taking center stage include Sting, Luger, the Warriors, Eddie Gilbert, The Great Muta, Rick Steamboat, Terry Funk, The Freebirds, and Rick Steiner. On July 23 in Baltimore, Ric Flair was to make his return before a nationwide pay-per-view audience. That night will only add another exclamation point to what has already been a superlative summer of wrestling action.

Are you a Bashoholic? Were you there when The Road Warriors and The Samoan Swat Team went at it in a violent and memorable tag team battle? When Sting won a double-ring, over-the-top-rope battle royal and was viciously attacked by Terry Funk? When The Great Muta and Eddie Gilbert put their considerable wrestling skills on display in a special Dragon Shai match? And when Lex Luger scored a controversial pinfall victory over Rick Steamboat?

What? You weren't? Well, then you're in luck! Because in this special section, our award-winning photographers bring you all the fast-paced, blood-curdling ringside action of a spectacular summer of mat mayhem.

We start out in Landover, Maryland, where the Bash opened on June 22 at the Capital Centre, and proceed up I-95 to the New Haven Coliseum. Then it's back down I-95 to Philadelphia, the City of Brotherly Love. Proceeding south down 95, we take a small detour to Raleigh, North Carolina, before cutting slightly west to Greenville, South Carolina. Then it's North Carolina, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina again, and Georgia before we cut away to bring you this special section.

But the action continued, and our photographers were clicking away furiously to bring it to you! Certainly, so

(Continued on page 50)

BACK ISSUES OF

Inside Wrestling

Be sure to fill in the gaps in your collection of **INSIDE WRESTLING**, "The magazine that rips the lid off pro wrestling." Get all the information you need to keep up on the pro wrestling scene. Don't be left out. Avoid sellouts—order today!

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GREAT AMERICAN BASH

(Continued from page 48)



U.S. champion Lex Luger proved his mettle by beating Rick Steamboat several times during the Bash (above). Luger's aggressive new style was too much for "The Dragon." The fans, meanwhile, were more concerned with voicing their opinions about Funk (below).

much was special about the 1989 Great American Bash:

● It was the first since Turner Broadcasting System purchased the NWA from Jim Crockett Promotions.

● For the first time, the emphasis was on pure *wrestling*. There were no rock 'n' roll preludes or country-western extravaganzas. The Road Warriors didn't have to share billing with David Allan Coe.

● Luger, Sting, Steamboat, and Funk battled it out to decide who is the number-one contender for the NWA World title. The result: violence, blood, and several Funk victories.

● In the background lurked Flair, the sidelined champion who held a nation of fans captive with the expected announcement of his comeback. He made the announcement on July 1 and requested a match against Funk. His request was granted.

● The Dragon Shai matches against Gilbert proved what we had suspected



all along: The Great Muta is a multitalented star of the future.

● Finally, there was you, the fans, the people who make wrestling click. Without fans, there are no matches. Without matches, there is no sport. Every card draws a unique group of fans that generates its own brand of excitement.

And excitement is what makes the Bash special. The summer months can be long, hot, and humid. This year, the Great American Bash made them hotter than ever! □



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July 1987/Stories include: Cornette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.

August 1987/Stories include: Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.

September 1987/Stories include: Koloffs, Harts, Duggan, Hennig, Hart.

October 1987/Stories include: Savage-Honky Tonk, Horsemen, Patera, Kerry.

November 1987/Stories include: Williams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.

December 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Windham, Lawler, Flair, Beefcake.

January 1988/Stories include: Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.

February 1988/Stories include: Flair, Andre-Hogan, New Breed, Kerry.

March 1988/Stories include: Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.

May 1988/Stories include: Horsemen, Hogan, Flair, Fantastics, DiBiase.

June 1988/Stories include: Sting-Flair, DiBiase, Kerry, Nikita, Zenk.

July 1988/Stories include: Fantastics, Hogan, Windham, McMahon, Rich.

August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Windham-Luger split, Demolition, Lawler, Ellering.

September 1988/Stories include: Duggan vs. Andre, Hogan, Windham.

October 1988/Stories include: Rhodes, Fantastics, Hennig, Roberts-Rude.

November 1988/Stories include: Midnight Ex., DiBiase, Bossman, Brody.

January 1989/Stories include: Kevin Von, Rougeaus, Horsemen, Hogan.

February 1989/Stories include: Warriors, Ultimate-Hogan, Bigelow-Gordy.

March 1989/Stories include: Jarrett, Flair, Jake-Andre, Bigelow-Windham.

April 1989/Stories include: Bulldogs, Warriors, Andre, Hogan-Savage.

May 1989/Stories include: Steamboat, Savage-Hogan, Dusty, Valentine.

June 1989/Stories include: Steamboat, Martel, Ultimate-Savage, Luger, Flair.

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REPORTER

(Continued from page 16)

Ronnie Johnson, Menands, NY: "Ronnie Garvin? As a referee? Doesn't anybody remember the vicious tag team of Ronnie and Terry Garvin back in the early '70s? And can't the fans recall the way he turned against Dusty Rhodes after J.J. Dillon paid him off in the NWA just last year? I think that Garvin is nothing more than a wolf in sheep's clothing. He's just waiting for the moment when he can cash in big for awarding a bogus decision during an important match. Garvin has proven many times in the past that he's as low as any wrestler that ever lived, so he's sure to disappoint everybody any minute now. I just hope he doesn't damage the careers of people like Hulk Hogan or Demolition when he decides to show his true colors."

Dennis Smith, Salt Lake City: "For the life of me, I can't understand Garvin's career motivations. After all, it was just two years ago when he was chasing Ric Flair all over the country in quest of the NWA World championship. If I were him, I'd head back to the NWA. Flair is still the titleholder, and Garvin is one of the few men who has proven he can defeat the 'Nature Boy.' Another potential problem I see for Garvin is all the valuable time he's wasted officiating matches. If he doesn't continue wrestling, he could get rusty and lose the skills that made him a classic competitor. That would be a terrible shame."

Ricky Parsons, Bakersfield, CA: "To me, Garvin's new role as a referee sets up several interesting scenarios. What will happen the first time he officiates a match involving Dusty Rhodes, his former enemy? Or Barry Windham, the man Garvin aided when he punched out Rhodes at the Great American Bash in Baltimore last July? Any number of things could happen. Dusty could try to go after Garvin for revenge instead of keeping his mind on his opponents. And perhaps Windham

could enter the fracas to aid the referee, even though he's a rulebreaker! If you ask me, Garvin won't be able to last much longer as an official. With all the former NWA stars coming into the WWF, it's just a matter of time before Garvin's past starts to catch up with him."

Jimmy Brower, Chicago: "What amazes me about Garvin is how he's not afraid to stand up to the rule-breakers when they start to bully him around. Already, he's knocked out



Because he is a wrestler, Garvin isn't afraid to stand up to men who break the rules. It is that no-nonsense attitude that has earned him the hatred of WWF rulebreakers.

men like Mike Sharpe with his 'hands of stone' when there's been an argument about a loss. Hitting wrestlers may not be the proper thing for a referee to do, but I think it's terrific. Many federations, such as World Class, have gotten away from the rules to such an extent that every card becomes a circus, with seemingly endless outside interference, foreign objects, and managerial chicanery. But with a man like Garvin around, any rule-breaker who tries those kinds of tactics will end up right on his butt. This sport needs stricter rules enforcement, and a guy like Garvin is just the man to do it." □

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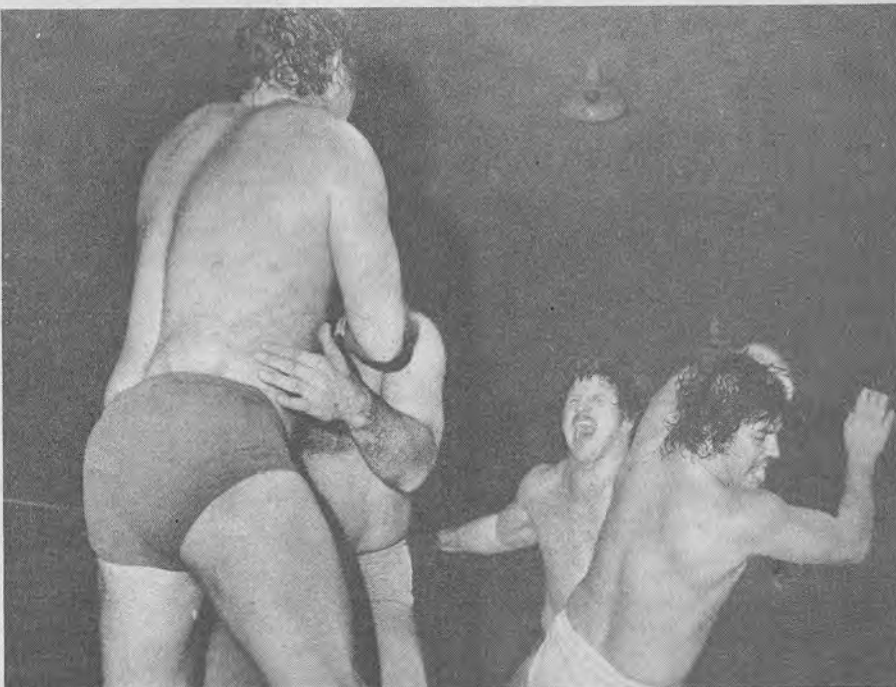
SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 18)

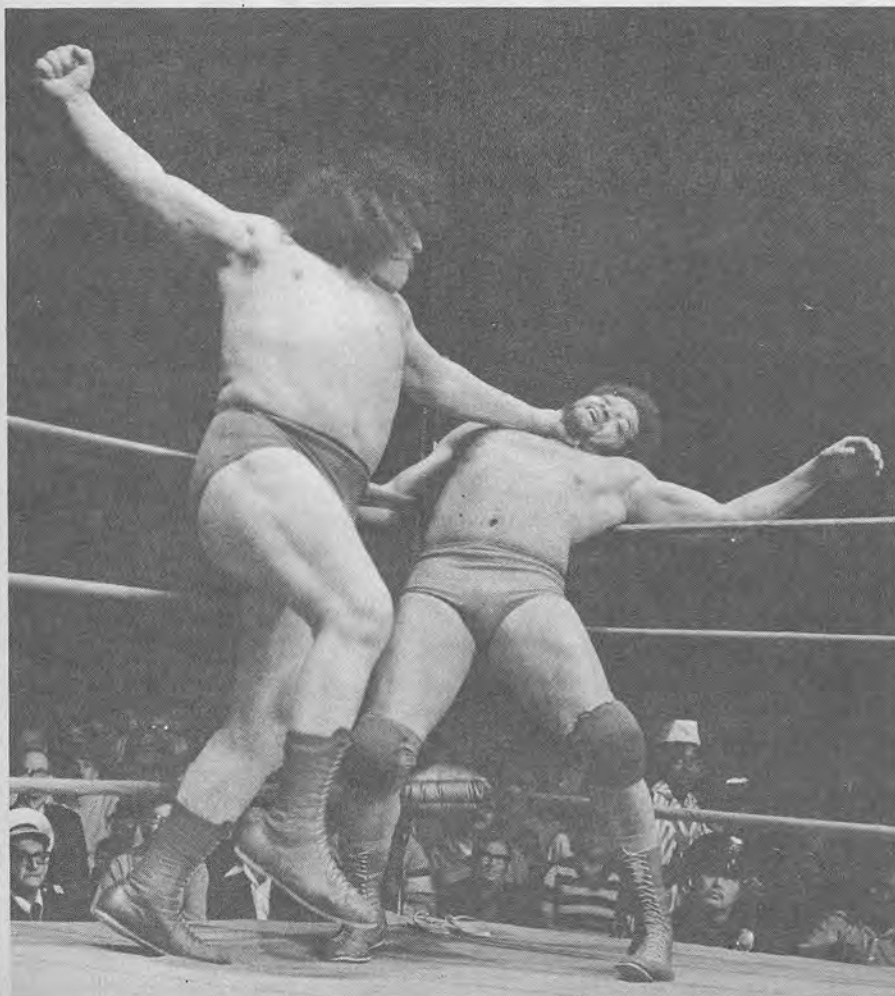
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

1974

LOS ANGELES FANS watched in amazement as Andre the Giant battled Ernie "The Big Cat" Ladd at the Olympic Auditorium. The two dwarfed referee Johnny "Red Shoes" Dugan, and actually moved the ring across the arena floor when whipping each other into the turnbuckles. The bout ended in a double-disqualification ... Billy Robinson won the AWA World title from Verne Gagne—for all of 10 minutes! The two had fallen out of the ring during their furious scientific battle. As they got back in, Gagne caught a leg



As Dory Funk and Jack Brisco lock up, Terry Funk knocks down Jerry Brisco. When the Briscos lost in Texas, they claimed the Funks received a "hometown decision."



Andre the Giant chokes Ernie Ladd and batters him against the ropes. In 1974 in Los Angeles, Andre and Ladd battled to a memorable double-disqualification.

in the ring ropes and fell. Robinson pinned Gagne, whose foot was still caught. The decision was, however, quickly reversed ... Jack and Jerry Brisco protested that the Funks received a "hometown decision" in a tag team match in Amarillo, Texas ... WWF champion Bruno Sammartino was blinded when Mr. Fuji threw salt in his eyes during a title defense in Pittsburgh ... Maniac John Tolos was locked in a cage suspended above the ring for a match between Victor Rivera and the masked Mr. California, whom Tolos advised ... Superstar Graham and The Crusher battled in a Green Bay, Wisconsin, main event. Baron Von Raschke rushed the ring to assist Graham, and, with brass knuckles, the two destroyed Crusher ... The feud between Moondog Mayne and Pat Patterson continued in Sacramento. The referee halted this no-disqualification match when he ruled that the two had lost too much blood to continue.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Jack Brisco; 2—Dory Funk Jr.; 3—

Pampero Firpo; 4—The Sheik; 5—Moondog Mayne; 6—Terry Funk; 7—Superstar Graham; 8—Buddy Colt; 9—Harley Race; 10—Tim Woods.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Verne Gagne; 2—Billy Robinson; 3—Ray Stevens; 4—Nick Bockwinkel; 5—Wahoo McDaniel; 6—Ivan Putski; 7—The Crusher; 8—Larry Hennig; 9—Greg Gagne; 10—Chris Taylor.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Bruno Sammartino; 2—Pedro Morales; 3—Chief Jay Strongbow; 4—Andre the Giant; 5—Bobby Duncum; 6—Killer Kowalski; 7—Strong Kobayashi; 8—Gorilla Monsoon; 9—Haystacks Calhoun; 10—Tony Garea.

TAG TEAMS: 1—The Valiant Brothers; 2—Billy Robinson & The Crusher; 3—Manuel Soto & Porkchop Cash; 4—The Von Brauns; 5—Ole & Gene Anderson; 6—Ray Stevens & Nick Bockwinkel; 7—Tony Garea & Dean Ho; 8—Terry Funk & Dory Funk Jr.; 9—Jack & Jerry Brisco; 10—Jerry Brown & Buddy Roberts.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

1979

A NUMBER OF titles changed in the early fall of 1979 ... Harley Race lost the NWA World title on Halloween night in Japan to Shohei "Giant" Baba. Race would regain the title in early November ... Pat Patterson beat some of the top stars on the international circuit to win the WWF Intercontinental championship in a tournament in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil ... Ivan Putski and Tito Santana defeated Jerry and Johnny Valiant on October 22 to win the WWF tag team belts ... Dewey Robertson defeated Greg Valentine in the final round of a tournament to win the vacant Canadian heavyweight title ... For-

(Continued on page 56)

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SUMMER 1984/Stories include: JYD, Flair-Race, Adams-Garvin, Snuka, Idol, Orndorff.

FALL 1984/Stories include: Hogan, David Von Erich, Flair-Brody, Blanchard, Rude, Valiant.

WINTER 1984/Stories include: Kerry Von Erich, Martel-Bockwinkel, Piper, Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds.

SPRING 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Hogan, Albano, Rhodes, Sullivan, Backlund, WWF vs. NWA.

SUMMER 1985/Stories include: Valentine, Windham & Rotundo, Warriors, Flair-Race, Nikita, Adams.

FALL 1985/Stories include: Von Erichs, Warriors, Hogan-Volkoff, Freebirds, Magnum, Zbyszko, Garvin.

WINTER 1985/Stories include: Orndorff, Warriors, Brody, Shultz, Duggan, Brody, Steele, Piper.

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FALL 1986/Stories include: R&R Express, Luger, Savage, Bulldogs, Hansen, Rude, Williams.

WINTER 1986/Stories include: Supercards, Hogan, Horsemen, Snuka, Von Erich, Rude, Cornette.

SPRING 1987/Stories include: Bigelow, Flair, Hogan, Luger, Race, Windham, Hyatt, DeBeers, Snuka.

SUMMER 1987/Stories include: Windham, Elizabeth, Superpowers, Albano, Von Erich, Williams.

FALL 1987/Stories include: Midnights, Flair, Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Piper, Hogan-Andre, Parsons.

WINTER 1987/Stories include: Luger-Nikita, Express, Hart, Hogan, Hyatt, Lawler, Rotundo, Lane.

SPRING 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Hogan-Andre, DiBiase, Honky Tonk, T.A., War Games.

SUMMER 1988/Stories include: Luger, Hogan, Cornette, Hennig, Bigelow, Hyatt, Rude, Strike Force.

FALL 1988/Stories include: Luger, Hogan, DiBiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting, Savage, Paul E., Gilbert.

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SUMMER 1989/Stories include: Steamboat, Hogan, Rotundo-Steiner, Warriors, Duggan, Turner, Taylor.

AUGUST 1989/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Martel, Sting, Studd, Morton, Ultimate, Sheik, Funk, PWF.

OCTOBER 1989/Stories include: Rhodes, Savage, Steamboat-Flair, Muta, WrestleMania V, Cornette.

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SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 55)



Mr. Fuji and Prof. Toru Tanaka, who held the WWF tag team title in 1972 and 1973, teamed up again in the Mid-Southern area in 1979.

mer WWF tag team champions Mr. Fuji and Prof. Toru Tanaka reformed their alliance in the Mid-Southern region ... Jim Brunzell defeated Ken Patera in an Asheville, North Carolina, match and collected a \$1,000 prize from Patera for doing so ... Ray Candy, substituting for Tony Atlas in a Georgia state title challenge of Killer Karl Kox, won the match but not the title. The officials ruled that although Atlas had signed for a title bout, Candy's bout was a non-title affair.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Dusty Rhodes; 2—Harley Race; 3—Ric Flair; 4—Ken Patera; 5—Wahoo McDaniel; 6—Mr. Wrestling II; 7—Terry Funk; 8—Rick Steamboat; 9—Mark Lewin; 10—Steve Keirn.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Nick Bockwinkel; 2—Mad Dog Vachon; 3—Ray Stevens; 4—Verne Gagne; 5—Billy Robinson; 6—Greg Gagne; 7—The Crusher; 8—Super Destroyer II; 9—Bobby Duncum; 10—Steve O.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Bob Backlund; 2—Swede Hanson; 3—Pat Patterson; 4—Greg Valentine; 5—

Ivan Putski; 6—Nikolai Volkoff; 7—Chief Jay Strongbow; 8—Bobby Duncum; 9—Ted DiBiase; 10—The Iron Sheik.

TAG TEAMS: 1—Tito Santana & Ivan Putski; 2—Verne Gagne & Mad Dog Vachon; 3—Ric Flair & Blackjack Mulligan; 4—Jim Garvin & Steve Keirn; 5—Ivan Koloff & Ole Anderson; 6—Bruiser Brody & Kerry Von Erich; 7—Ken Patera & John Studd; 8—Tommy Rich & Stan Hansen; 9—Don Muraco & Jos LeDuc; 10—Ron & Robert Fuller.

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

1984

GREG VALENTINE DEFEATED Tito Santana to win the

Intercontinental title in London, Ontario, but he needed interference from his manager, Capt. Lou Albano. Before the match began, Albano distracted Santana, allowing Valentine to sneak up on the champion and knee him in the legs. Santana later required knee surgery ... Dusty Rhodes and Manny Fernandez captured the NWA World tag team title from Ivan Koloff and Don Kernodle in a steel cage match in Greensboro, North Carolina ... Kerry Von Erich avenged his brother Mike by winning the World Class American title from Gino Hernandez in Ft. Worth, Texas, in October. A month earlier, Gino had regained the belt from Mike when Gino's valet, Nickla (Baby Doll) Roberts, inter-



Kerry Von Erich pulls Gino Hernandez away from the turnbuckle. In October 1984, Kerry won the American title from Hernandez, who had beaten Mike Von Erich a month earlier.

ferred ... Not long after his arrival in the WWF, Bobby Heenan got Big John Studd several title shots against WWF champion Hulk Hogan ... Wahoo McDaniel beat Manny Fernandez in the final of a one-night tournament to win the U.S. title. Wahoo had accused promoter Jim Crockett, Rick Steamboat, and Ric Flair of plotting to keep the belt out of his hands ... The Road Warriors continued to overpower every team they met in defenses of their AWA World tag team title ... In the early days of their feud, The Rock 'n' Roll Express beat The Midnight Express for the Mid-South tag title ... Ronnie Garvin defeated Ted DiBiase in Baltimore to win the National belt. At one point, Garvin threw a box of popcorn in DiBiase's face! ... Ernie Ladd took the North American title from Magnum T.A. in Shreveport, Louisiana.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Ric Flair; 2—Dusty Rhodes; 3—Wahoo McDaniel; 4—Kerry Von Erich; 5—Ronnie Garvin; 6—Harley Race; 7—Gino Hernandez; 8—Jesse Barr; 9—Cowboy Ron Bass; 10—Tully Blanchard.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Rick Martel; 2—Nick Bockwinkel; 3—Mr. Saito; 4—Tony Atlas; 5—Billy Robinson; 6—Brad Rheingans; 7—Jim Brunzell; 8—Crusher Blackwell; 9—Larry Zbyszko; 10—Steve O.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Hulk Hogan; 2—Greg Valentine; 3—John Studd; 4—Roddy Piper; 5—Tito Santana; 6—Sgt. Slaughter; 7—Junkyard Dog; 8—Kamala; 9—Ken Patera; 10—Jesse Ventura.

TAG TEAMS: 1—The Road Warriors; 2—Dusty Rhodes & Manny Fernandez; 3—Steve Keirn & Stan Lane; 4—Dick Murdoch & Adrian Adonis; 5—The Rock 'n' Roll Express; 6—Ron Bass & Black Bart; 7—Krusher Khrushchev & Jim Neidhart; 8—Tommy Rogers & Bobby Fulton; 9—Rip Rogers & Ted Oates; 10—Ivan & Nikita Koloff. ☐

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FREEBIRDS

(Continued from page 39)



Garvin chinlocks Stan Lane. Precious is concerned that Garvin's tactics will become increasingly vicious now that he's a Freebird.

hammered Jimmy's right leg with a pair of cinder blocks, fracturing it in two places. Jimmy was in a cast for months, so we were forced to spend most of our time at home while he recovered.

That's when the *real* trouble started.

During Jimmy's convalescence, we would get phone calls at all hours of the day and night from that bum Michael Hayes. Jimmy and that Freebird fool are long-time friends, and they've teamed up many times in the past, but, personally, I've never cared for the guy at all.

Why? Hayes has got to be the most evil man I have ever met. I know I've done some things in the past that were wrong, and believe me, I regret it today. But Hayes has no soul at all. He'd cripple his own mother if it would help him win a match. And outside the ring, he's one of the most boorish, egotistical men in existence. The slob would even try to make passes at me while Jimmy was standing right beside

me! And Gordy and Buddy Roberts were so awful that I don't even want to talk about them. *Ugh!*

After Jimmy's leg healed up, we toured some independent federations the early part of this year, but the whole time we kept getting hounded. Letters. Phone calls. Telegrams. Messages left for us at the arenas. They were all from Hayes, all begging Jimmy to team with him—but this time, as an "official" member of The Freebirds. Finally, Hayes started having an effect on Jimmy. He wanted to team with Hayes and Gordy again, but I didn't want any part of it.

"Buddy can't team with us 'cause he's busy in World Class," pleaded Hayes to me on the phone one day. "Now, if Jimmy joins us, we can win the tag belts, the six-man belts, and every NWA singles title, too. Ain't nothin' we can't do as long as we're willin' to cheat for each other. Imagine it. Hayes, Garvin, and Gordy. What a team. We'd be unbeatable!"

I hung up on him, but a few

weeks later Hayes was able to convince Jimmy to join up. Then came one of the biggest arguments Jimmy and I have ever had. I told him I wouldn't have anything to do with The Freebirds, and that by joining them he would be ruining everything we did over the past year. I gave Jimmy two choices—*them* or *me*. I was stunned when Jimmy told me he couldn't pass this opportunity by.

Instantly, my worst fears were realized. In Jimmy's very first appearance, Gordy interfered so that Jimmy and Hayes could win the World tag team tournament final from The Midnight Express on June 14 in Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. When that happened, I knew there would be no turning back. Jimmy Garvin was back to being his old, rulebreaking self once again. It didn't take long for that Freebird poison to creep back into his soul.

Now, Jimmy acts like another version of Hayes and Gordy. At home, he's still a sweet guy, but when he gets in the ring, he's more violent than I've ever seen him. Worst of all, he doesn't care about the fans any longer. All he cares about are money and titles.

Jimmy's thrilled now that he's a champion, but all I do is worry about him. What would happen if he ever *lost* a match? I'd be willing to bet that Gordy and Hayes would turn against him in a minute. And what about The Freebirds' penchant for living the high life? How can I relax knowing that my husband is out cavorting with those lowlife creeps?

No matter how I look at it, this is the worst situation I've ever been in. Gordy and Hayes are ruining my husband, and there's not much I can do about it right now. But believe me, I won't rest until I get my husband away from those louts and get him back on the right track.

Like they say, a woman's work is never done. ☐

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SPRING 1988/Color pinup: Elizabeth. **Stories include:** Hennig, Koloff, Savage, Strike Force, Warriors, Andre-Hogan.

SUMMER 1988/Color pinup: Missy Hyatt. **Stories include:** Rock 'n' Roll Express, Hogan, Sting, Luger, Owen Hart, Animal.

FALL 1988/Color pinup: Madusa Miceli. **Stories include:** Savage, Hyatt, Von Erich, Triple Dome, Demolition, Steamboat, Heenan, Lawler.

WINTER 1988/Color pinup: Randy Savage. **Stories include:** DiBiase, Flair, Duggan, Sting, Piper, Luger, Brody.

SPRING 1989/Color pinup: Rick Steamboat. **Stories include:** Bigelow, Lawler, Blazer, Sting, Ultimate-Hogan, Jake-Andre, Powers of Pain.

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LOCKER ROOM CONFIDENTIAL

(Continued from page 12)

most circumstances, however, if the champion wants to wrestle a certain contender, the match will be signed. It's in our best interests."

I quickly caught on to what he meant. The NWA without Ric Flair would be like the WWF without Hulk Hogan, or *The Tonight Show* without Johnny Carson. "Listen, Bill," Herd said, "don't think we weren't on edge waiting for him to make his announcement. You know what Flair means to the NWA as well as I do, and we didn't want to lose him. But if he absolutely couldn't go on, there wasn't much we could do about it."

At that point, it was pretty easy to envision NWA board meetings over the months during Flair's forced hiatus. Stars like Flair aren't easily replaced. Sting, Lex Luger, and Rick Steamboat are great wrestlers, and each has captured the fans' fancy. But do they fall under the same category as Flair? There's "very good" and "popular," then there's "great" and "charismatic."

But there aren't too many like "Slick" Ric.

Don't think Flair doesn't know that's true.

The afternoon before the press conference, Flair lounged by the pool and asked me to put my notepad down for a moment. "Listen to me for a minute. Don't write, just listen."

When the champ tells you to listen, you listen. And you try to remember as much as possible.

"I've been out of that ring for the past two months, and don't think I haven't noticed what's been going on," Flair said. "Luger, Sting, Steamboat, Funk, they're all battling to be number-one contender. But I look at these guys and say, 'Could they ever be Ric Flair? Could they ever do for the NWA what I have?' I'm not being conceited. I'm just being realistic."

"Steamboat's a great competitor.



Flair works over Steamboat's left leg during one of their many classic matches this past spring. Flair's absence from the Great American Bash cards seems to have hurt attendance throughout the country. Some Flair-Steamboat rematches might have helped, but Funk's attack on the champion made that impossible.

He was on the sidelines for almost a year, then he came right back and won my title. But, you know, he eventually ran out of gas. Luger's young and tough, but he still hasn't shown he's got what it takes. Sting's gonna be a superstar one day, mark my words, but where's that cockiness a champion needs? As for Funk, I don't know what the heck he has to offer."

The message was clear: Flair's decision was made for him. When Dr. Joseph Estwanick in Charlotte gave Flair the go-ahead to wrestle, he had no choice but to return.

"But I wasn't coming back just to wrestle Steamboat again or to give Luger another shot," Flair continued. "Funk's the man that has to be put in his place. I can't sit here watching TV all day while that guy is parading around like he's still something great."

Thus, the phone call. Of course, Flair knew what the NWA's answer

would be. Attendance was down at many of the opening Great American Bash cards, and Flair's absence was the main reason. It's almost as if after all these years, after all Flair has given the sport—excitement, controversy, excellence—he still feels he owes it something.

"Look around you, Bill," Flair said. "Look at all I have. I don't have this if not for wrestling. This sport is my life, I'm the NWA World champion, and I just can't step aside as long as I'm still able to wrestle. Funk got me down, but he didn't wipe me out. That was his biggest mistake."

It really is hard to imagine wrestling—especially the NWA—without Flair. He's been a major part of this sport for so long, the two have become one.

"Lose Flair and our promotion has to change its direction," Herd said. "It's good to have him back."

That's for sure. □

Wrestling

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 January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.
 June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.
 September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.
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 December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.
 March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.
 April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.
 May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.
 June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.
 July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.
 August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.
 October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.
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 March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.
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 July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourney.
 August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.
 September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.
 October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.
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 March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.
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 May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.
 June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.
 July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.
 August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorff, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.
 September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorff, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.
 October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.
 November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.
 December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.

January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.
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 June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.
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 August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.
 September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Luger, Dundee, UWF tourney.
 October 1986/Orndorff, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.
 November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.
 December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Muchnick Tourney.
 January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.
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 June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.
 July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.
 August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.
 September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.
 October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourney.
 November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Shepherders, Condrey.
 December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card.
 January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.

February 1988/Rhodes, Strike Force, Rich-Adonis, Hyatt, 1988 datebook.
 March 1988/Starrcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko.
 April 1988/1987 in Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton.
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 July 1988/Savage wins WWF tourney, Rockers-Express, Hayes, Dusty-Rider.
 August 1988/Luger and Sting win Crockett Cup, Savage-DiBiase, Nasty Boys, Ultimate Warrior.
 September 1988/Predictions Through 1998, Williams, Rhodes, Bad Company, greatest Garden matches.
 October 1988/Midnight Rockers, Sting, Taylor, Koloff, Hot Young Lions.
 November 1988/R&R Express, Honky Tonk, Von Erichs, Great American Bash.
 December 1988/Warriors, Samoan SWAT Team, Hart, Andre, Presidential Wrestlers.
 January 1989/Jake-Cheryl-Rude, Sting, Lawler, Flair, Savage's career.
 February 1989/The Champions in '89, Duggan, Roberts, 1989 datebook.
 April 1989/Starrcade '88, Savage-Hogan, Funk-Mulligan, Heenan, Abdullah.
 May 1989/Royal Rumble, WrestleMania, Rhodes, Lawler, Horsemen.
 June 1989/Chi-Town Rumble, Hogan-Towers, R&R Express, Rougeaus.
 July 1989/WrestleMania V, Sting, Steamboat, Martel vs. Rude, Embury.
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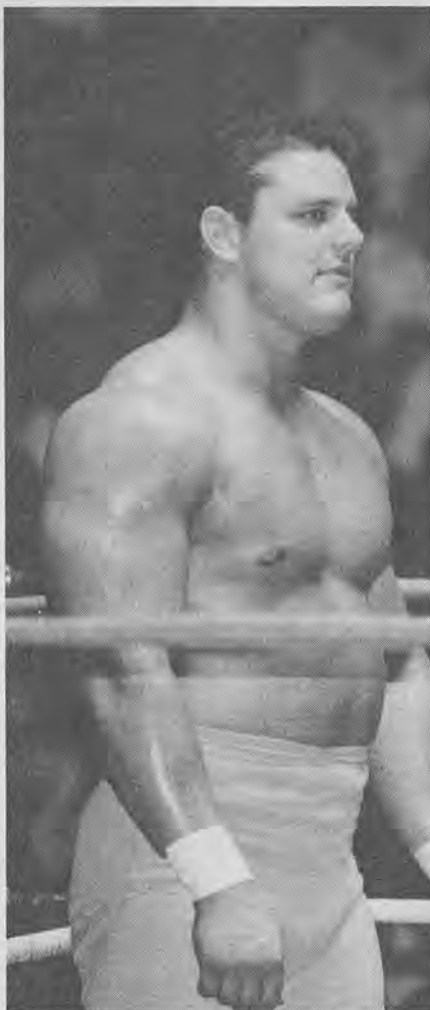
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TATTLER

(Continued from page 8)



DAVEY BOY SMITH

things happen so fast in the ring, you're not sure *how* to react, so you just react on instinct."

"The cheers of the fans when Kerry and I shook hands made a big impression on me," said Lawler, who kept his title. "I think the fans here and in Texas want us to be friends, but we've just been so caught up with the titles over the past year-and-a-half. As far as Gossett and his boys are concerned, Kerry and I are better off together."

—Randy Swift

JASPER, ALBERTA: Davey Boy Smith, Jason the Terrible, Samu Hara, Chris Benoit, and TV producer Ross Hart were involved in a head-on automobile accident on July 4 while on their way to a Stampede card in Prince George, British Co-

lumbia. Three of the five were seriously injured.

Hart was driving northwest on Route 93, a four-lane highway that runs from Calgary to Jasper, when his van hit an ice patch in the road. The van spun out and collided with a car in the oncoming lane. None of the three people in the other car were seriously injured.

Smith, however, hit the dashboard and suffered a substantial cut in his forehead that required approximately 100 stitches. He also may have cracked a vertebra and, at press time, was wearing a neck brace. Jason, the most seriously injured of the group, broke his left leg in two places. Benoit suffered a bruise on his right knee. Hara and Ross were shaken up but avoided injury.

Hara is not expected to miss any ring time. The status of Smith, Jason, and Benoit was uncertain at press time.

According to Stampede promoter Stu Hart, the accident occurred between 3 and 4 p.m. Smith and Jason were admitted to a hospital in Edmonton; Smith was released two days later and returned to Calgary.

In a chilling coincidence, the accident occurred one year to the day after Adrian Adonis and two others were killed in an accident in eastern Canada.

—Dave Rosenbaum

EAST RUTHERFORD, NJ: Although the eyes of the wrestling world will be on the SummerSlam '89 showdown pitting Hulk Hogan and Brutus Beefcake against Zeus and Randy Savage, there's considerable interest in the undercard. Dusty Rhodes will take on The Honky Tonk Man in a match that defies logic.

"It's hard to understand why Dusty is wasting his time with Honky Tonk when he has so many enemies in the WWF to deal with," a source close to Rhodes told *The Tattler*. "At best, this figures to be the



DUSTY RHODES

WWF at its most comical. Honky Tonk loves to sing, dance, and play the guitar, while Dusty's been known to try out a few steps of his own in the ring. But really, Honky Tonk no longer has the Intercontinental title, hasn't for a while, so it doesn't make sense."

It has been suggested that Rhodes suffered a severe setback when he was pinned by Ted DiBiase at the Niagara Falls Convention Center after beating DiBiase several times in prior matches. Despite his standing as a three-time former NWA World champion, Rhodes might have to prove himself all over again in the WWF.

Also on the card, Akeem, Big Bossman, and Andre the Giant will take on Demolition and Hillbilly Jim. An Intercontinental title match between champion Rick Rude and The Ultimate Warrior was expected to be signed shortly after press time.

—Allison Corey ☐

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Wrestling



Terry Funk

TOP 10

- 1 HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
WWF World champion
- 2 LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
U.S. heavyweight champion
- 3 RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
No. 2 contender: WWF title
- 4 STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
NWA TV champion
- 5 RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
No. 3 contender: NWA title
- 6 RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
WWF Intercontinental champion
- 7 JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
World Class champion
- 8 LARRY ZBYSKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
AWA World champion
- 9 TERRY FUNK**
247, Amarillo, TX
No. 2 contender: NWA title
- 10 TOM PRICHARD**
220, Houston, TX
CWF champion

TAG TEAMS

- 1 DEMOLITION**
Combined weight: 585 pounds
WWF World tag team champions
- 2 THE ROAD WARRIORS**
Combined weight: 567 pounds
No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 3 MICHAEL HAYES & JIM GARVIN**
Combined weight: 590 pounds
NWA World tag team champions
- 4 TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**
Combined weight: 484 pounds
No. 3 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 5 SAMOAN SWAT TEAM**
Combined weight: 510 pounds
No. 2 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 6 AKEEM & BIG BOSSMAN**
Combined weight: 816 pounds
No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 7 THE BUSHWHACKERS**
Combined weight: 542 pounds
No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title
- 8 BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE**
Combined weight: 458 pounds
No. 3 contenders: NWA tag team title
- 9 SHAUN & STEVE SIMPSON**
Combined weight: 430 pounds
World Class Texas tag team champions
- 10 MIKE ENOS & WAYNE BLOOM**
Combined weight: 518 pounds
No. 1 contenders: AWA tag team title

NWA

World Champion:
RIC FLAIR

243, Minneapolis, MN

- 1—LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
- 2—TERRY FUNK**
247, Amarillo, TX
- 3—RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
- 4—STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
- 5—THE GREAT MUTA**
245, Tokyo, Japan
- 6—STEVE WILLIAMS**
265, Norman, OK
- 7—MIKE ROTUNDO**
245, Syracuse, NY
- 8—EDDIE GILBERT**
222, Lexington, TN
- 9—TERRY GORDY**
289, Chattanooga, TN
- 10—RICK STEINER**
248, Detroit, MI

WWF

World Champion:
HULK HOGAN

302, Venice Beach, CA

- 1—RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
- 2—RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
- 3—BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
273, San Francisco, CA
- 4—THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
- 5—HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
- 6—JIMMY SNUKA**
250, Fiji Islands
- 7—DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
- 8—TERRY TAYLOR**
225, Vero Beach, FL
- 9—CURT HENNIG**
235, Minneapolis, MN
- 10—HONKY TONK MAN**
255, Memphis, TN

AWA

World Champion:
LARRY ZBYSKO

248, Pittsburgh, PA

- 1—GREG GAGNE**
220, Robbinsdale, MN
- 2—SGT. SLAUGHTER**
310, Parris Island, SC
- 3—AKIO SATO**
234, Tokyo, Japan
- 4—ADNAN AL-KAISSIE**
235, Iraq
- 5—COL. DeBEERS**
248, Cape Town, S. Africa
- 6—DERRICK DUKES**
235, Boston, MA
- 7—MIKE GEORGE**
265, St. Joseph, MO
- 8—PAUL DIAMOND**
230, Thunder Bay, Ontario
- 9—KEN PATERA**
256, Portland, OR
- 10—SCOTT NORTON**
360, Minneapolis, MN

WORLD CLASS

World Class Champion:
JERRY LAWLER

234, Memphis, TN

- 1—P.Y. CHU-HI**
257, Jackson, TN
- 2—ERIC EMBRY**
225, Lexington, KY
- 3—CHRIS ADAMS**
228, Stratford, England
- 4—KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
- 5—AL PEREZ**
238, Tampa, FL
- 6—JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 7—MIL MASCARAS**
245, Mexico City, Mexico
- 8—CACTUS JACK**
247, Truth or Consequences, NM
- 9—JIMMY JACK FUNK**
243, Portland, OR
- 10—KEVIN VON ERICH**
235, Denton, TX

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

MOST POPULAR

- 1 HULK HOGAN**
302, Venice Beach, CA
Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
- 2 STING**
260, Venice Beach, CA
Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
- 3 THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**
280, Queens, NY
Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
- 4 BRUTUS BEEFCAKE**
273, San Francisco, CA
Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
- 5 DUSTY RHODES**
302, Austin, TX
Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
- 6 HACKSAW DUGGAN**
280, Glens Falls, NY
Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
- 7 ERIC EMBRY**
225, Lexington, KY
Last month: No. 8 Most Popular
- 8 RICK STEINER**
248, Detroit, MI
Last month: No. 10 Most Popular
- 9 RICK STEAMBOAT**
238, Honolulu, HI
Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
- 10 JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
Last month: No. 9 Most Popular

MOST HATED

- 1 RANDY SAVAGE**
245, Sarasota, FL
Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
- 2 TERRY FUNK**
247, Amarillo, TX
Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
- 3 LEX LUGER**
268, Chicago, IL
Last month: unrated
- 4 ZEUS**
343, Los Angeles, CA
Last month: unrated
- 5 RICK RUDE**
246, Robbinsdale, MN
Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
- 6 THE GREAT MUTA**
245, Tokyo, Japan
Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
- 7 LARRY ZBYSKO**
248, Pittsburgh, PA
Last month: No. 7 Most Hated
- 8 BIG BOSSMAN**
348, Cobb County, GA
Last month: unrated
- 9 JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
Last month: No. 10 Most Hated
- 10 DYNAMITE KID**
228, Manchester, England
Last month: No. 9 Most Hated

For period ended July 7, 1989

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

- 1—RANDY SAVAGE87 points
- 2—HULK HOGAN67 points
- 2—LEX LUGER67 points
- 4—RIC FLAIR66 points
- 5—RICK STEAMBOAT49 points

TAG TEAMS

- 1—DEMOLITION94 points
- 1—THE ROAD WARRIORS94 points
- 3—BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE49 points
- 4—SAMOAN SWAT TEAM46 points
- 5—PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND42 points

STAMPEDE

North American Champion:
LARRY CAMERON

280, Chicago, IL

- 1—CHRIS BENOIT**
218, Edmonton, Alberta
- 2—DYNAMITE KID**
228, Manchester, England
- 3—JOHNNY SMITH**
235, Manchester, England
- 4—RICKY RICE**
230, Edina, MN
- 5—ANGEL OF DEATH**
310, Los Angeles, CA
- 6—BRUCE HART**
211, Calgary, Alberta
- 7—KERRY BROWN**
295, Kansas City, MO
- 8—LEN CRAZY HORSE**
220, LaRonge, Saskatchewan
- 9—BULLDOG BROWN**
238, Winnipeg, Manitoba
- 10—GOLDIE ROGERS**
223, Hollywood, CA

CWA

CWA Champion:
BLACK BART

261, Pampa, TX

- 1—JEFF JARRETT**
200, Hendersonville, TN
- 2—JERRY LAWLER**
234, Memphis, TN
- 3—KERRY VON ERICH**
260, Denton, TX
- 4—DUTCH MANTEL**
224, Oil Trough, TX
- 5—MASTER OF PAIN**
320, parts unknown
- 6—BILL DUNDEE**
228, Manchester, England
- 7—RICK MORTON**
228, Memphis, TN
- 8—TONY ANTHONY**
235, Bucksport, TN
- 9—DUSTIN RHODES**
254, Austin, TX
- 10—BILLY TRAVIS**
218, Houston, TX

ACW: ACW champion—Don Kernodle; 1—Colt Steel; 2—Sam Houston; 3—Nelson Royal; 4—Todd Champion; 5—Ken Shamrock; 6—Spike; 7—Samoan Tai; 8—Sheinobi; 9—Tommy Angel; 10—Ricky Nelson.

CWF: Continental champion—Tom Prichard; 1—Wendell Cooley; 2—Dan Davis; 3—Alan Martin; 4—Dennis Condrey; 5—Jerry Stubbs; 6—Mike Davis; 7—Adrian Street; 8—Don Harris; 9—Terrance M. Garvin; 10—Todd Morton.

ICW: ICW champion—Tony Atlas; 1—Kendall Windham; 2—Joe Savoldi; 3—Ivan Putski; 4—Vic Steamboat; 5—Ken Patera; 6—Mike Sharpe; 7—Col. DeBeers; 8—Tom Brandi; 9—Scott Putski; 10—Mike Kaluha.

PNW: PNW champion—title vacant; 1—The Grappler; 2—Billy Jack Haynes; 3—Art Barr; 4—Top Gun; 5—Scotty the Body; 6—Steve Doll; 7—Nord the Barbarian; 8—Scott Peterson; 9—Col. DeBeers; 10—Al Madril.

PWF: PWF champion—title vacant; 1—Dustin Rhodes; 2—Kendall Windham; 3—Al Perez; 4—Big Steel Man; 5—Steve Keirn; 6—Mike Graham; 7—Tyree Pride; 8—Lou Perez; 9—Brett Sawyer; 10—Ho Chi Win.

WWC: WWC champion—Steve Strong; 1—Invader I; 2—Rip Rogers; 3—Abdullah the Butcher; 4—Kerry Von Erich; 5—TNT; 6—Eric Embry; 7—Abu ghadien; 8—Jim Valiant; 9—White Angel; 10—Chicky Starr.

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating nearly 200 wrestlers in 18 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

Tracking Trends. As the spring season ends and the red-hot summer season moves into full swing, wrestling has taken on a new flavor. **Hulk Hogan** doesn't have much competition for his WWF World title and, instead, is concentrating on his and **Brutus Beefcake's** SummerSlam '89 showdown against **Zeus** and **Randy Savage**. Meanwhile, in the NWA, World champ **Ric Flair** was still sidelined at press time but was gearing up for a July 23 showdown in Baltimore with **Terry Funk**. And in the AWA, **Larry Zbyszko** is rolling right along, taking on contenders from several independent federations and successfully, though deviously, defending his World title.



Hulk Hogan

Now on to the Top 10 and tag team ratings.

TOP 10: **Hulk Hogan** spends his second straight month at number one ... U.S. champion **Lex Luger** remains at number two because of his new ferocious style and the impressiveness of his performances against **Rick Steamboat** during the Great American Bash ... **Steamboat** has slowed down since losing the NWA World title to **Flair** and sinks two spots in the ratings to number five ... World Class champion **Jerry Lawler** jumps over AWA World champ **Larry Zbyszko** this month. **Lawler** has picked up his title defense schedule ... **Funk** enters our Top 10 for the first time as he gets ready to take on **Flair**. Not too long ago, **Funk** wasn't even in the NWA ratings. Apparently, his excessive violence has paid off ... CWF champ **Tom Prichard** is a newcomer ... Stampede North American champ **Larry Cameron** has been defending his title infrequently and drops out. **Cameron** is waiting for **Owen Hart** to arrive on the Stampede scene.

TAG TEAMS: **Demolition** is obviously the real thing. The WWF World tag team champions are number one for the fourth straight month. Now they'll have to hold off an assault from former NWA World tag champs **Tully Blanchard** and **Arn Anderson**. The **Brain Busters** moved up three spots in the ratings to number four ... New NWA World tag champs **Michael Hayes** and **Jim Garvin** enter the ratings at number three, but are slotted a notch below **The Road Warriors**. The Legion of Doom still hasn't suffered a clean loss to any of the top NWA teams ... Look for **Akeem** and **Big Bossman** to continue their downward spiral; they dropped two spots to

number six after suffering several losses to **Demolition** ... **Bobby Eaton** and **Stan Lane** have resurfaced in the NWA tag team picture.

OTHER NOTES: **Davey Boy Smith**, **Jason the Terrible**, and **Chris Benoit** are out of action due to an automobile accident (see "Tattler" on page 8); **Smith** and **Jason** were removed from the Stampede ratings. **Benoit** still holds the British Commonwealth title, so he'll remain in the ratings until a decision is made regarding his championship status ... **Rick**



Rick Steamboat

Steamboat was booed at many Great American Bash cards and drops drastically in the Most Popular ratings ... Is **Terry Funk** more hated than **Randy Savage**? We'd like to hear your opinion on this question.

Mail call! The recent changes in our ratings drew plenty of comments, most of them positive. Let's start with a letter from **Diane Seals** of **Jenks, Oklahoma**: *It is very refreshing to see six independent organizations on your ratings pages. It's about time the wrestlers in those circuits got some recognition. Thanks for realizing that there's more to wrestling than just the colossal giants.*

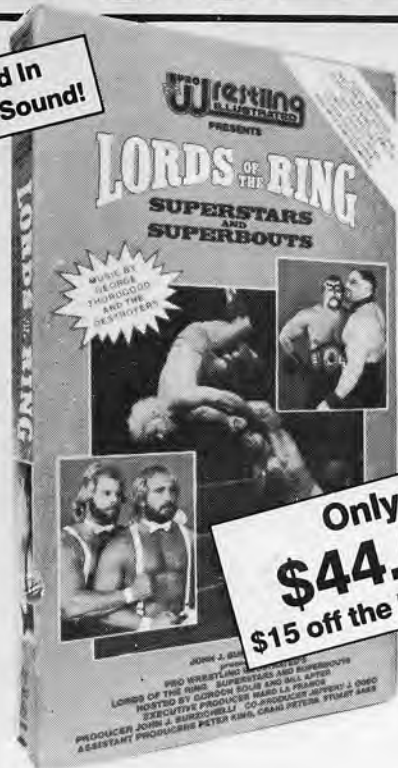
From **Joe Nagri** of **Bayside, New York**: *I think the new ratings are excellent! They are truly the best ever. Now that you cover 18 categories, there's nothing else left to cover that comes to my mind.*

And, finally, on the negative side, from **Stan Obodiak** of **Wilmington, Delaware**: *I can see the reasoning behind your added ratings, but the way wrestling is going these days, some of those federations listed could be defunct by the time the magazines hit the newsstands. In my mind, the ratings pages have always been a special, prestigious spot, and a federation must earn a place there. Added information is nice, but really, what influence do the ICW, PNW, and WWF have on the sport as a whole? Most fans only want to know about the WWF and the NWA and sometimes, but very rarely, the AWA.*

That does it for now! But your mail is always welcome and we want to know what you think about what we've written or what we should write in the future. The address for mail is: "Ratings Analysis," c/o Sports Review Wrestling; Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY 11571. □

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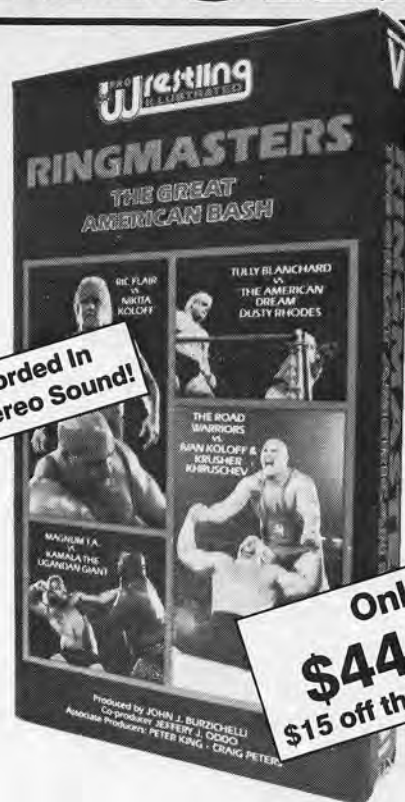
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